

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



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation: "Wilderness Sunday"
September 13, 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 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 worshipping 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 worshipping 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.



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Wilderness Sunday”

Celebrated by Christians around the world, the Season of Creation is a global movement where faith communities reflect on how caring for creation is connected to our discipleship as followers of Jesus and as stewards of our shared, wondrous home. Indeed, our work to resist and protest the powers and principalities that violate Creation and God’s Children has never been more needed and urgent than this time on Earth. On this wilderness Sunday, we are reminded of this call to action, and that in times of trouble or uncertainty, God dwells near to us.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

The themes for Season of Creation (Year A) are reflected in the Call to Worship:

River

Wilderness

Forest

Land

† Call to Worship

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

We praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us as one Body of Christ in solidarity with all Creation.

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we’re drawn by God’s mercy to prepare to assemble around the

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, Creation, and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

<i>Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.</i>	Reconciling God, we expect nature to serve our needs, and we have damaged it in the process. We trample every wild place and pollute your waters. We abuse your good Earth until it cries out in pain. Forgive us, loving God. Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth. Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation. Amen. Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, receive this forgiveness and be led by the Spirit to do God’s healing work in the world. Amen.
	† Gathering Hymn: Creating God, Your Fingers Trace (ELW 684) v. 1,2,4 1 Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space; let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might. 2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth's myst'ries known or yet untold; let water's fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care. 4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims one fam'ly with a billion names; let ev'ry life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face. Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934 Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
<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.

	† Hymn of Praise: All Creatures Worship God Most High (ELW 835) v2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
<i>The Prayer of the Day highlights themes in today's scripture.</i>	† Prayer of the Day Merciful God, you made the wilderness teeming with living creatures, thriving plants, and spacious habitats. Free us from our destructive ambitions. Stir us to respect and protect your wild places, caring for all that you have made, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.
<i>The First Reading comes from the Old Testament in the Bible.</i>	<u>The Word</u> <i>God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.</i> New Testament Reading: Romans 8:18-27 To put this reading into context: <i>Creation and humanity each experience suffering as a result of sin. Yet, Paul proclaims, each wait with hope for a day of renewal and harmony with each other.</i> Hear now the reading. ¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with

patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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.

† Gospel Acclamation: Heleyuan (ELW 171)



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

† Gospel: Mark 1:9-13

To put this gospel reading into context:

After Jesus' baptism, the author of Mark shows us that Jesus is immediately driven by the Spirit into the wilderness. The Spirit continues to call us today into wilderness spaces.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

	The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
	Children’s Sermon
	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison <i>Silence for Reflection.</i> <i>Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:</i> <i>Think of wilderness places or experiences in your life. How was God present. Where did God show up?</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: Let the Whole Creation Cry (ELW 876) v. 1, 3 1 Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!" Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!" Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love; sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice. 3 Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold, and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts; from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll: "Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!" Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.
	† Ionian Creed We pray together the Ionian Creed:

We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon,
of water and earth, of all of creation.
We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor,
tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,
he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven,
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church,
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of all resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.

Ionian Creed, also known as the “Celtic Creed.” The Iona Community was founded in Glasgow and Iona in 1938 by George MacLeod, minister, visionary and prophetic witness for peace, in the context of the poverty and despair of the Depression. More here: <https://iona.org.uk> Creed accessed from: <https://modernliturgist.org/project/a-celtic-creed-2/>

*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 Intercession

Let us pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

God, you know every creature by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures, especially the wilderness and wild places. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

+ <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>	God of equity and justice, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God, receive our prayer. God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind Merciful God, receive our prayer. We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. We pray especially for Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel and surrounding countries in the Middle East. Merciful God, receive our prayer. We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind, especially: Dale, Davon, Jane, Darlene, Diane, Mike, Steve, the Busby family, Joe, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Kay, Brendan, Sarah, Donna, Rev. John Keller, Jim & Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Preston, Bianca, Joyce, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Cathryn, Kristina, Kim, Jeanette, James, Paul, ...and all those we name aloud or in our hearts [<i>A brief silence</i>]. Merciful God, receive our prayer. God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through 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>

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal
Offering *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus*

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



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.

The offering is brought to the altar to signify our gratitude for God’s blessings.

† Offering Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth (ELW 879), v. 1

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

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† Offering Prayer

Loving Creator, all Creation comes from you – forests, lands and prairies, wild places, rivers and streams. As we bring our offerings to you, we ask that you bless them so that your kingdom comes on Earth as it is in heaven; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

San - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to, es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,

Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to, es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on

tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the

nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth.

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

*The Lord's
Prayer is Jesus'
response to his*

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught

<i>disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i>	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 The gifts of creation for God’s beloved creatures. Come and share.
	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 coming 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.</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: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me 1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me; all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me. 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Communion Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make.
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.
- 3 Oh, enter then his gates with praise;
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why? The Lord our God is good:
His mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

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 Almighty God, who breathes life into you and all living things, who heals all the world, and who sustains all Creation, give you peace and purpose, in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. 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 sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!</i>	† Dismissal Go in peace. Care for Creation. Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

Today’s Worship Servants:

Ushers: Stan Zeager & Bill Fink	Livestream: Sean Lanter
Reader: Jennifer Krankowski	Acolyte: Amelia Forshey
Counters: Kirsten Reading & Stan Zeager	Cantor: William Eversole
Online Usher: Stormy Younger	Altar Care: Darlene Wahl
	Communion Bread: Christine Jacobson

The flowers this Sunday are from the Wancatas for Mildred Wancata and Herman Mahnke.



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Sept 13th, 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, Rev. John Keller, Jim & Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Preston McLendon, Bianca Miller, Joyce Miller, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Cathryn Schultz, Kristina Seeley, Kim Taylor, Paul Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, 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: John Younger (9/11), Lisa Sierk (9/12), Kathy Aloï (9/16)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Mark Liston (9/12)

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Heather & Lance Curtis (9/10), Evan Paine & Natalie Tasseff (9/17)

Season of Creation is throughout 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. One Good Soil parishioner recently shared, “The Season of Creation is one of my favorite times of the church year.” 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 (216) 640-6145 or amandamforshey@gmail.com. This is a great opportunity to

bring a friend to worship with you, invitations are on the welcome table. Enjoy meaningful outdoor worship and then some fun fellowship with free ice cream truck treats from Polar X-Press on 9/27!

Good Soil knitting and crafting group will start up again on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm starting in September. If you'd like to learn to knit or just want to hang out with good people and work on another craft, talk to Anne Paine or text her at [440-670-4917](tel:440-670-4917).

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday Service Project Opportunity, TODAY – In celebration of the ELCA’s annual day of service, Good Soil is teaming up with LakewoodAlive to assist seniors with yard clean up. Following Sunday service, volunteers will meet at the assigned yard and work for about 90 minutes. LA requests that volunteers wear long sleeves and pants. They will have some tools, gloves, safety glasses, lawn and leaf bags and a cooler of bottled water onsite for everyone. If you have any personal tools, you are welcome to bring them. A written waiver is required for participation—paper copies are available the day-of. Please see Emma Sleva (216-835-9243 or emmacsleva@gmail.com) with questions.

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:

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

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

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. Feed your community and your soul by volunteering! Contact Liz at 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org.

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 – 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, Sept 20	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 3rd Sunday in the Season of Creation: Forest Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Sept 20	Acolyte Training after worship (2nd grade and older)	10:30 am
Sun, Sept 27	In-Person Outdoor (no livestream) Worship: 4th Sunday in the Season of Creation: Land Sunday , worship in Good Soil's parking lot with Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran (bring a lawn chair; rain plan—inside sanctuary). Free Ice Cream truck treats for all after worship!	9:30 am
Sat, Oct 3	Ladies' Breakfast	9:00 am
Sun, Oct 4	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 4	Community Pet Blessing at Bethesda on the Bay	2:00 pm
Sun, Oct 11	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am

