

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



Second Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Land Sunday”
September 27, 2026
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116

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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 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.



Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation: “Land 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. On Land Sunday, we remember that Jesus willingly goes into the Earth, redeeming the land from sin and death just as Christ redeems us. Today we worship with the land, the soil, and the land creatures.

Gathering

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

Prelude and Welcome

Creation Reflection Question:

Find a partner (someone you don't know or don't know well)

1. Share your name and which congregation you attend.
2. Share a memory from a visiting a National Park (or other metro/regional/county park).
3. Bonus: How did you experience God through that story, place, or experience there?

*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.

<i>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.</i>	† 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. <i>Silence is kept for reflection.</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: Praise and Thanksgiving (ELW 689) v. 1, 2, 4 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood. 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread. 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land. Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

<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 Gracious God, sculptor of the land, we in our brokenness have damaged your Earth. Restore our relationship with the land in the name of Christ the Redeemer and Healer of all Creation, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. 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> First Reading: Genesis 2:4b-5, 7-9, 15 To put this reading into context: <i>As God formed Creation and breathed life into being, humanity is entrusted with the cultivation of God's abundant blessings.</i> Hear now the reading. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground—⁷then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. ⁸And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹Out of the ground the LORD God

made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

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: Heleyuan (ELW 171)



**This gospel acclamation tunes comes from our Muscogee (Creek) native siblings and may be sung in a round.*

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

† Gospel: Matthew 12:38-40

To put this gospel reading into context:

Jesus proclaims that he will go into the heart of the Earth to redeem the sin of all the world.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." ³⁹But he answered them, "An evil and faithless generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

	Children’s Sermon
	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison <i>Silence for Reflection.</i> <i>You’re invited to reflect using the spiritual practice of Visio Divina:</i> <i>Reflect on the land around you, or close your eyes and imagine a beloved place in nature. Focus on one thing (plant, creature, natural object, etc.). What characteristics of this thing catch your attention? What does this thing have to offer you today? What might be an invitation to you from this sacred thing?</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: As the Grains of Wheat (ELW 465) <i>Refrain</i> As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you. 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. <i>Refrain</i> 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. <i>Refrain</i> Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
	† 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/
<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: + The Church + Creation + Nations and leaders + Those in need + This faith community</i>	† Prayers of Intercession Let us pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. <i>A brief silence.</i> Hold us accountable, O God. Make our spirits sensitive to the cries of creation—especially from the land and all land creatures. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth’s thriving. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide all who create and uphold laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity. Grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict, especially in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel and countries in the Middle East. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Today we especially pray for those we now name aloud or in our hearts [<i>a brief silence</i>]. Merciful God, receive our prayer. Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be a refuge and strength to us. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

+ <i>The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God</i>	Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciles all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.
<i>A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.</i>	† Passing of the Peace The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you. <i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you." This greeting can take the form of shaking hands, waving, or making the peace sign with one another.</i>
<i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i>	<u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus</i> Offering God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today using the QR code or at pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran  <i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i>
	Special Offertory Music: Bethesda and Good Soil Singers, <i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>, directed by Eric Richardson
<i>The offering is brought to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i>	† 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. Copyright © 2001 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

† Offering Prayer

Loving Creator, all Creation comes from you: forests, lands, prairies, rivers and streams, and all wild places. 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.

† 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

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

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."

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: Before the Waters Nourished Earth (ACS 1049)

- 1 Before the waters nourished earth
or night imagined morning,
a Love conceived the universe
and reveled in its forming.
- 2 This Love remained as time revealed
the loss of Eden's glory
and, grieving, holds in memory
each tragic human story.
- 3 Despair, so deep it bears no name,
or sorrows paralyzing
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim
to dwell within our dying.

	4 The Love that called creation good all goodness still is bringing. This Love turns death again to life and silence into singing. Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress
	† 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: Now the Green Blade Rises (ELW 379) v. 1, 2 1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been; love is come again like wheat arising green. 2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again; laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again like wheat arising green. Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958. Text from <i>Oxford Book of Carols</i> © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved
<i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, &</i>	† Dismissal Go in peace. Care for Creation. Thanks be to God.

<i>our service begins!</i>	
	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. Season of Creation worship texts: Let All Things Now Living: A Worship & Preaching Resource for Season of Creation Year A, created by a team of the Creation Care Subcommittee of the Northern Illinois Synod (ELCA). 2020 and 2026.

*Please join us for fellowship after worship with free treats from
Polar X-Press Ice Cream Truck*

Today’s Worship Servants:

Ushers: Larry Jacobson & Bill Fink	Livestream: Isaac Krankowski
Reader: Sharon Bechtel	Acolyte: Lily Connor
Counters: Kirsten Reading & Ellen Young	Cantor: William Eversole
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor
Instrumentalists: Brynna Bailer Munro, Jim Kulma, Deb Yandala, and Matt Bishop	Presiders: Pastor Marissa Harrison and Pastor Angela Freeman
Choir Director: Eric Richardson	Communion Bread: Sarah Sburlea

The flowers adorning the altar today are for the birthday of Luke and Ryan Williamson.



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Sept 27th, 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, Rev. John Keller, Aliyah Kennedy, Jim & Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Charley & Cindy McCabe, Preston McLendon, Joyce Miller, Jen Mitterholzer, 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: JoAnne Wancata (9/26), Bill Wahl (9/28), Luke Williamson (9/28), Ryan Williamson (9/28)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: Amelia Forshey (9/26)

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Andrea & Tom Molnar (9/23)

Season of Creation continues through 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). 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!

Community Pet Blessing, 10/4 at 2pm at Bethesda: Our pets reflect God's unconditional love for us. Join us at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran (28607 Wolf Rd. Bay Village, 44140) for a fun worship service with our animal companions and a blessing for each of them.

Conference-wide Confirmation & Family Fun Event 10/4 at 4pm at Prince of Peace: All confirmation students and their family members/friends are invited to join for fellowship, food, meaningful outdoor worship, lots of games, and smores at Prince of Peace Lutheran (28455 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake, 44145). Come get to know other Lutheran confirmation students and their families and grow in faith together.

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).

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
Thurs, Oct 1	Confirmation Class at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran (28607 Wolf Rd. Bay Village, OH 44140)	6:00 pm
Sat, Oct 3	Ladies' Breakfast at Gene's Place to Dine (Lorain Rd & RR Drive)	9:00 am
Sun, Oct 4	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 19th Sunday After Pentecost and 1st Sunday in <i>The Joy of Generosity</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 4	Community Pet Blessing at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran (28607 Wolf Rd. Bay Village, 44140)	2:00 pm
Sun, Oct 4	Conference-wide Confirmation & Family Fun Event at Prince of Peace Lutheran (28455 Center Ridge Rd, Westlake, 44145)	4:00 pm
Thurs, Oct 8	Council Mtng (2027 Ministry Budget Planning)	7:00 pm
Sun, Oct 11	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 20th Sunday After Pentecost and 2nd Sunday in <i>The Joy of Generosity</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 18	In-Person & Livestream Worship: 21st Sunday After Pentecost, 3rd Sunday in <i>The Joy of Generosity</i>, and Baptism of Russell Neuhaus	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 25	In-Person & Livestream Worship: Reformation Sunday, Intent Sunday, and 4th Sunday in <i>The Joy of Generosity</i>	9:30 am
Sun, Nov 1	In-Person & Livestream Worship: All Saints Sunday with Candle-Lighting Memorial Rite	9:30 am