Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
Church office: (440) 331-1773
9:30am-1pm, M-F

The Rev. Marissa Harrison, cell: 813-494-6507
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org

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Sean Kennedy, admin@goodsoillutheran.org

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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 in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Children may take communion or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available.

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.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST

24th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday

Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

	Gathering *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.* **Prelude and Welcome**
In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.	**† Confession and Forgiveness** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation** **instead of your invitation.** **We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.** **We trust the voice of our shame and fear,** **which keeps us from entering fully** **into relationship with you and others.** **We are not awake to the coming of your reign.** **Rouse us and rescue us,** **that we may enter into your joy.** **Amen.** Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (ELW 244) v. 1, 2, 4

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

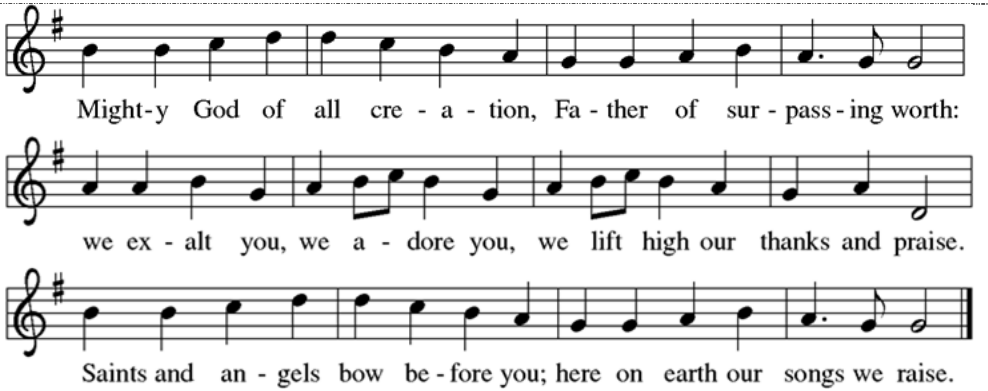
The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (2 Corinthians)

† 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.**

† Hymn of Praise:





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

† Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, 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.

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

To put this reading into context:

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

Hear now the reading:

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about
those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who
have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are
alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means
precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of
command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's
trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise

	first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words. Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**
	Psalm: Psalm 70:1-2, 4-5  1 Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me; O Lord, make | haste to help me. **2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.** 4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!" **5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.**
We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation.	**† Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Gospel Acclamation (ELW 174)**  Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Before and after the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ,	**† Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13** To put this Gospel into context:

who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.	*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.* The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.** [Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. 11 Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
	Children's Sermon *After the Children's Sermon, children are invited to step out with our Sunday School teachers for a "Grow in Faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace.*
	Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison *Silence for Reflection.* *Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:* *Do you feel like you lack anything, or want more of anything, in your relationship with God? (trust, peace, meaningful prayer life, sense of*

	God's presence, time for meditation/devotions, familiarity with scripture, etc.). How does God meet you where you are anyway? Can you think of any examples in your life when you felt in lack, but God showed up?
The Hymn of the Day is the assembly's response to the sermon—making the sermon event a mutual faith conversation.	**† Hymn of the Day: Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)** 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood. *Refrain* This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long: this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long. 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain* 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain* Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our participation.	**† Prayers of Intercession** United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.* You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Awaken us to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern: *+ The Church* *+ Creation* *+ Nations and leaders* *+Those in need* *+ This faith community* *+ The great cloud of witnesses/those resting with God*	You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.** You make justice roll down in all places and nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. We pray for places experiencing war and violence around the world, especially in Ukraine, Gaza, Iran, Israel, & surrounding countries in the Middle East. God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.** You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis or uncertain treatment options. We pray especially for: Jane, Darlene, Diane, Mike, Steve, the Busby family, Joe, Elizabeth, Jon, Audrey, Frank, Kay, Kay, Brendan, Sarah, Donna, Rev. John Keller, Aliyah, Jim & Toni, Kate, Charley & Cindy, Preston, Joyce, Jen and family, Susan, Sally, Ruth, Cathryn, Kristina, Kim, Paul, Jeanette…and all those we name aloud or in our hearts [*A brief silence].* God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.** You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.** You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.** Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**
A practice of the ancient church, we share in Christ's peace & recognize it in each other.	**† Passing of the Peace** The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *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.*

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

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus

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

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: Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise (ELW 207)

Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980. Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

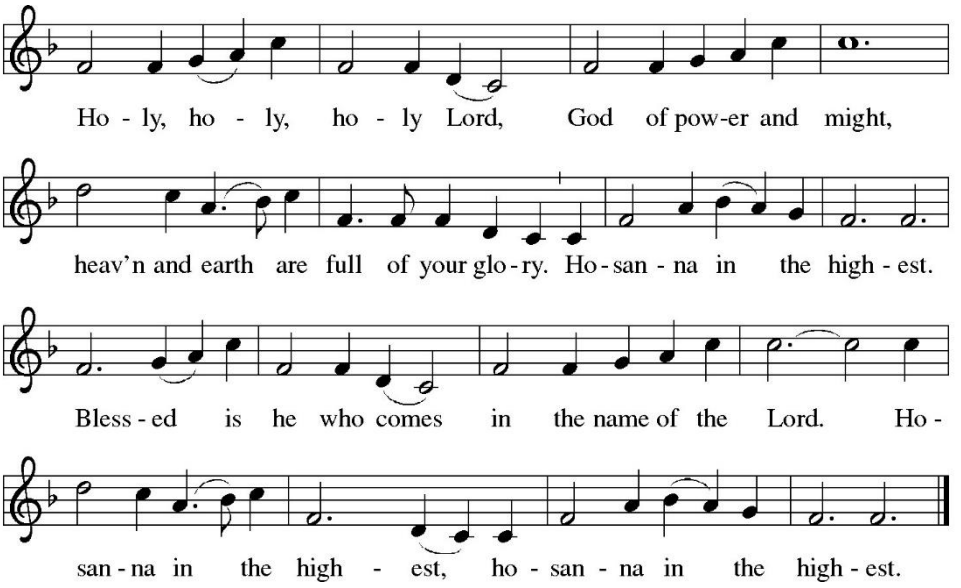
† Offering Prayer

Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 
	† 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 In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared. **Amen.**

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: Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow (ELW 327)

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.

2 One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

3 One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.

One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.

4 Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Communion Hymn: When Peace Like a River (ELW 785)

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain
It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;

	even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain* Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888
	† Post-Communion Table Blessing Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**
	The Sending *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.* **† Blessing** The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**
Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	**† Sending Hymn: Soon and Very Soon (ELW 439)** 1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King x3 *Refrain:* Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King! 2 No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King x3 *Refrain* 3 No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King x3 *Refrain* 4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King x3 *Refrain* Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!	**† Dismissal** Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**
	Postlude

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Today's Worship Servants:

Ushers: Taylor Nichols & Lance Curtis	Livestream: Jessica Bershire
Reader: Sharon Betchel	Acolyte: George Young
Counters: Ellen Young & Jessica Berkshire	Cantor: David Paine
Online Usher: Kim Wylie	Altar Care: Anne C. Paine
	Communion Bread: Sarah Sburlea

Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Nov 8, 2026

Especially in our prayers: 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 and family, 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.

*****Prayer List Updates coming 11/29:**

1) The bulletin prayer list will start fresh with the new Church Year beginning on 11/29. Please contact Amy in the church office at (440) 331-1773 or cclc@goodsoillutheran.org if you'd like names currently on the list to continue being included.
2) In an effort to give additional context for prayers, beginning 11/29, the names listed in the bulletin will connect to a google doc giving a brief description of the request (healing, comfort, etc.). Please let the church office or Pastor Marissa know if you'd prefer your prayer request description remain private.
3) Likewise, the Email Prayer Team list will also be starting over fresh beginning, 11/29. To keep names on the Email Prayer Team list or to join the Email Prayer Team, please contact George Andrews at (216) 235-2417 or george_n_andrews@yahoo.com

For those celebrating birthdays: Scott Wylie (11/10), Elijah Pate (11/12)

For those celebrating baptism anniversaries: N/A

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries: N/A

Thank you for a great Intent Sunday on 10/25! Over the past month, we've been exploring the Joy of Generosity: The Joy of Giving (10/4), The Joy of Being in Community (10/11), and the Joy of Doing God's Work Together (10/18). As of 11/2, we received 43 intent forms. If one of those is yours, thank you! If not, please consider returning an intent form by **11/15**. Of those 43 Intent Forms:

- ➔ 84% are growing in generosity (36 households—wow!)
- ➔ 8 households are choosing to start their new level of giving before January 2027
- ➔ 10 households are pledging for the 1st time

GOAL: 45 intent forms (2 remaining to reach goal)
Your offering helps to make Good Soil's meaningful ministries possible. Please consider the invitation to increase your giving by 1% of your household income using the chart on the back of the Intent Form. Thank you for your generosity! Access online version of the Intent Form:

Spirit UnHinged: An Exploration of a New Queer Ministy on the West Side (11/29) Save the Date! Vicar Albie Nichol will be with Good Soil on 11/29 to share a bit about a new ELCA exploration on the West Side, especially for ministry with and alongside the queer community. Good Soil is one of several congregations in the Ally Network supporting this new ministry. Vicar Albie will be offering an Adult Forum after worship and we'll take a love offering to support this ministry exploration.

Good Soil knitting and crafting group gathers on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. 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.

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: The successful 2026 program has been completed. The next distribution will be March 27, 2027.

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, Nov 8	**In-Person & Livestream Worship: 24th Sunday After Pentecost**	9:30am
Sun, Nov 15	**In-Person & Livestream Worship: 25th Sunday After Pentecost** (last Sunday to submit Intent Forms)	9:30am
Sat, Nov 21	Lakewood Fresh Produce Distribution at Lakewood Congregational Church parking lot on the corner of 1375 W. Clifton Blvd at Detroit Ave	9:00am-12:00pm
Sun, Nov 22	**In-Person & Livestream Worship: "Reign of Christ Sunday (walking through church year)"**	9:30am
Sun, Nov 29	**In-Person & Livestream Worship: 1st Sunday in Advent and Guest from Spirit UnHinged (ELCA) Ministry Exploration**, with adult forum to follow	9:30am