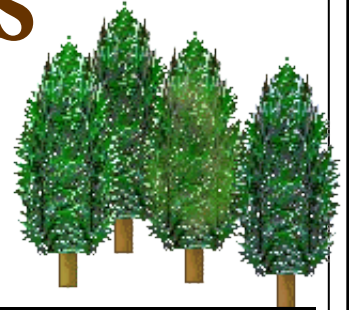


# Wooden Cross Newsletter



November, 2024

**WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

*Wooden Cross is a welcoming, Christ-centered community believing in grace and living in faith and service.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

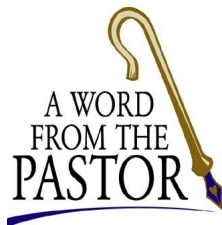
Dearest friends,

I write to you about a week before the unfolding of election day with the expectation that most of you will be seeing this writing sometime around the “eve” of what many are expecting to be quite a tumultuous couple days. I’ve been praying about our nation, our politics and leadership both local and national, as well as how the balkanization of our body politic has had an ever increasing impact on how church lives out being the “body of Christ” in a time and culture when seemingly fewer will tolerate the intellectual diversity that our politics represent.

So what is the word to the church in the midst of this all. In truth I actually think the word is quite simple and telling at least in the proclamation... perhaps less so simple in the trusting and believing and yet isn’t this often the case with “faith?”

God is the sovereign of this time and this place as He has been, and will be to the end of time itself. This world is God’s good creation in its origin and in God’s ongoing providence. Our politics cannot change this most foundational fact. What this reminds us to trust is that God has been active and pouring out his grace and provision in the midst of the heights of human history and in the depths of human atrocity. Who “wins” the White House will not and cannot change God’s position as ruler of creation and that includes our United States... so be at peace.

The body of Christ is a union not to be torn asunder, nor separated by “hands” and “eyes” sewing contempt



upon one another as though the “other” members of the body are unnecessary or “beneath” another. This is not so in our culture... in fact almost the exact opposite tends to be the “talking points” of the day... but “talking points” and “normative cultural habits” are not permitted us by Christ our Lord.

Jesus explicitly teaches his disciples that they are not to seek “lordship” over one another as do the “gentiles” and the apostle Paul carries this ideal into his metaphor of the body being made up all it’s various parts, each one vital and each one crucial to it’s wholeness and health. CNN and FOX, DNC and RNC make money off of the discord and discontent... it is not to be so among us.

*Continued on Page 3*



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- Blaine Wastell ..... President
- Peggy Reiber ..... Vice President
- Carolyn Gross ..... Secretary/Treasurer
- Nancy VanDalsem ..... Council Member
- Art Hammersberg ..... Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson ..... Council Member
- Jone Vrhel ..... Council Member

**WEDNESDAY MORNING  
BIBLE STUDY**



God calls us to grow in faith. Members and friends are invited to grow in their relationships with God. A book of the Bible is selected to read and study together over several weeks to give it full exploration.

On **Wednesday mornings beginning at 10:00 AM** Pr. Eric will lead **Adult Bible Study** (in-person and online via Zoom). You are welcome to join us! Bring a willing heart. We will till the soil. God brings the growth.

**PASTORAL CARE**

If you or your family have any health concerns needing prayer, or a pastoral contact or visit, please call or email the church office. Thank you.



**2024 Stewardship**



*Let's accept our freedom to give generously, and our responsibility to be good stewards of all God's gifts.*

**2024 Local Giving Budget**

**Weekly Average Goal: \$4,818**

<b>AUG</b>	Week 1:	\$4,130	
	Week 2:	\$1,257	
	Week 3:	\$3,055	
	Week 4:	<u>\$4,205</u>	
		<b>\$12,647</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$3,162</b>

<b>SEP</b>	Week 1:	\$5,104	
	Week 2:	\$2,460	
	Week 3:	\$1,820	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,090</u>	
		<b>\$11,474</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$2,869</b>

**Thank you!**



**WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**

17401 198th Avenue NE  
Woodinville, Washington 98077  
(corner of 198th and Woodinville/Duvall Road)

**Sunday Worship ..... 10:00 AM**

**Church ..... 425-788-3626**

Church Office Hours ..... Mon.-Thurs, 7:30 AM—3:00 PM

Church Email ..... [woodencrosslc@gmail.com](mailto:woodencrosslc@gmail.com)

Website ..... [www.WeAreWoodenCross.org](http://www.WeAreWoodenCross.org)

**Pastor Office Hours ..... T-Th: 9:30 AM—2:30 PM; Fri. by Appointment**

**Pastor Email ..... revericg@hotmail.com**

Pastor ..... Eric Griffith

Secretary / Bookkeeper ..... Kathy Corneloup

Music Director / Organist ..... Seung Lee

Special Music ..... Ensemble Musicians

Altar Guild Coordinator ..... Linda Griffith

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

*(continued from page 1)*

You are named "child of God" in your baptism and that name carries more weight and significance than whatever name labels political affiliation. Being "child of God / Christian" is our calling to embody love, mercy and compassion or perhaps most accurately "the character of Christ Jesus our Lord" in the midst of a world that is actively hostile to God and will ultimately despise Christ until converted BY the working of the Holy Spirit.

When we vote it is in light of this higher calling to bear the image of God Himself into the world seeking to conform our will to the Will of God as best we can discern it. As we engage with our neighbors, family, and even political rivals we are called to do so embodying Christ Jesus and taking "HOW" we engage these from Him. So let us also seek to be faithful and abounding in steadfast love even with those with whom we adamantly disagree for the love of Christ shows us that love comes with suffering... unless we choose willingly to forget the cross itself.

Elections have become expressions of our cultural idolatry even to increasing degrees within the church as well. Idolatry is an insidious thing and to the degree you find yourself either "jubiling" or "despairing" who is winning or losing, serves as reasonable indicator to the power of this particular idolatry in any of our lives. Yet God says... "You shall have no other God's before me." So let's not... plain as that.

I don't share any of this claiming it's always just simple. In fact being faithful in this fallen world is often anything but simple. But God's Word is plain and doesn't really equivocate here. I think for most of us the question is often then going to fall into the realm of "Lord I hear you... will I trust you?" or to use specifically Biblical language here... "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." Over the next several weeks friends... let us trust and believe... and may God help our unbelief.

Peace friends and let us all lean heavily into our faithful God who is even now at work in our world!

Eric

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**



Our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 27, 7:30 PM is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for our many blessings during the past year.

The monetary offering will go to support local hunger.

**THANKSGIVING EVE POTLUCK PIE SOCIAL**

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service, you are invited to join us for a Potluck Pie Fellowship.



**2025 LEADERSHIP**



The Nomination Committee and Council are busy securing the nominees for open elected Church Leadership positions on the Ministry and Mission Committees—Worship & Formation, Christian Response, Christian Connection, and the Finance Team for the year 2025.

Nominees will be found in the willingness of members to commit their time and talents to leadership roles, and to active participation in ministries of special interest—around the abilities and talents they have to share.

The Nomination Committee has the responsibility to prepare the ballot of nominees for election at the Annual Meeting and Brunch, on Sunday, January 19, 2025. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact: Natasha Carlson, Blaine Wastell, Peggy Reiber, Carolyn Gross, Art Hammersberg, Dave Hutchinson, Nancy VanDalsem, or Jone Vrhel.

**CONNECT — GROW — SERVE**



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FALL INGATHERING



Fifty-four quilts were blessed on October 20 in preparation for the 2024 Fall LWR Ingathering. Nine boxes were packed and delivered to Redeemer’s Lutheran in Seattle to be included in the ingathering shipment.

Our faithful and talented group of quilters include: Betty Scott, Jone Vrhel, Cinda Woody, Linda Griffith, Nancy VanDalsem, Sandy Hammersberg, and Peggy Reiber. Thanks to all of them.

LWR QUILTS & KITS

Lutheran World Relief and the Quilt and Kit Ministries both began in 1945. Last year 551,700 quilts and kits were shipped to 14 different countries. This is the first year that LWR has partnered with groups within the US. This expanding outreach is possible because of generous congregations like ours.

Christian Response puts together Personal Care Kits and School Kits in alternating years. Watch for your opportunity to contribute for Personal Care Kits this spring.

WC Quilters, a group of 8 members and 1 friend, meet 4 times a month. You may sew and contribute without coming to a Sunday or Thursday sew day, but it’s fun to be together. This year we are donating 54 quilts to LWR and 1 to the Auction. Your generosity allows us to purchase batting and ship quilts to the warehouse in Baltimore in Maryland. The fabrics are all donated. Many times we have no idea by whom. As a group in Iowa decided, “It drops from heaven. God provides.” Quilters say a big thank you for your support.



For any who would join us in sharing God’s warmth and love with the world—you don’t have to know how to sew or own a machine—we’ve got you covered, AND Betty loves helping others learn new skills.

The Wooden Cross Quilters meet on alternating Sunday and Thursday afternoons. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board and on the website calendar. Projects are available to work on at home as well. All sewers and helpers welcome!

QUILTER’S GROUP

The Wooden Cross Quilter’s Group continue to make beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



You are invited to join us (see calendar on the bulletin board for Sunday and Thursday dates and times). Bring a sewing machine, or just come and help cut and assemble fabric. Come and reconnect with friends, or make new ones!

CONSIDER SHARING YOUR VOICE!

It’s time to make some music! And the Wooden Cross Choir is ready to start singing again! Organist and Music Director, Seung Lee will lead the choir. Why not add more music to your life and consider joining the choir! All voices welcome—particularly sopranos! The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.



Daylight Savings Time Ends  
 In the wee hours of  
 Sunday, November 3.  
 Remember to set your  
 clocks back on hour!



**A U C T I O N   T H A N K   Y O U !**

The Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction—"Harvest Fair!" was a great success...and a lot of fun! We raised \$11,000! Proceeds from the Auction will support Acres of Diamonds, Foss Home & Village, Maltby Food Bank and Lutherwood Camp & Retreat Center.



Thank you to everyone who donated and participated. And to Marilyn & the G Strings for the live music. The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.

Carla Peterson and Peggy Reiber  
 Co-Coordinators

**Y O U R   A U C T I O N   A N D   G A R A G E   S A L E  
D O N A T I O N S   A T   W O R K**

Over the past few months, with input from our Christian Connection, and Christian Response Committees, the Church Council authorized significant donations to local community outreach programs.

Habitat for Humanity of Snohomish County was gifted \$10,000 for its Bayside Home Project. Acres of Diamonds received \$5,980 to support its Children's Program. These funds were matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor, in essence doubling our donation.

Lutheran World Relief's Gifts of Love received \$4,060, for an Irrigation System which provides water for community fields; five Eye Surgeries; and two 13-animal Herds of Hope.

The Foss Home and the Maltby Food Bank each



**F A L L   F O O D   D R I V E**

Christian Response committee is holding a Food Drive in November for the Maltby Food Bank. Items needed include:

Wet cat food; Dry cat food; Baked beans or pork n beans; Soup with meat other than chicken; Canned beef; Canned chicken; Clam chowder; Jelly/jam; Honey; Canned Mandarin oranges; Condiments; Olives; Spam; Instant potatoes; and Canned peas.

Feel free to also bring items related to Thanksgiving. The food collection box is located in the church entrance. Thank you!

received a contribution of \$1,980. The Boy Scouts received \$1,800 to support their activities and a Summer Camp Scholarship.

Council also approved a \$2,500 donation to the Woodinville Storehouse Foodbank. This foodbank serves residents of Woodinville and provides nourishment and ministry to those in need.

A \$1,500 donation to United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF) was also authorized. The UCEF provides information, referrals and small, one-time financial assistance to the homeless population in the area.

Your Church Council, with the input and guidance of our committees, looks forward to continuing to disperse the funds that the congregation has worked so hard to raise.

**CONNECT — GROW — SERVE**

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

### CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Please help make this a brighter Christmas for those in need. This year, Christian Response will be collecting monetary donations, and gift cards for HopeLink and Acres of Diamonds. From November 17 through December 8. Giving envelopes will be available on the Giving Tree. Donations may be placed in the offering basket.

**Acres of Diamonds.** This Duvall transitional living residence serves women and children. Acres of Diamonds has requested Safeway Cards, Safeway Gas Cards and Shell Gas Cards; VISA, Target and Amazon Gift Cards; and ORCA Cards (for public transportation). Checks may be made payable to: "Wooden Cross" and note AoD in the memo line.

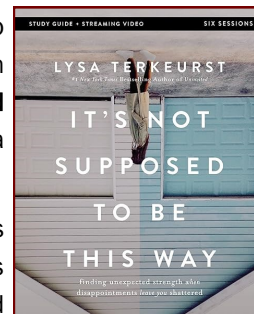
**HopeLink Gifts.** This family agency serves children and youth in King County. Monetary donations will supply a child or youth with gifts for Christmas. Gift Cards to Safeway, Fred Meyer, and Target, between \$25-\$50 work best for parents to be able to purchase suitable gifts for their children. If you prefer to write a check, please make your checks payable to: "Wooden Cross" and note HopeLink in the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your support.

—Christian Response Committee

### BOOK STUDY INVITATION

You are invited to participate in a Faith Formation Book Study—"It's Not Supposed to be This Way" by Lysa Terkeurst.



What do you do when God's timing seems questionable, His lack of intervention hurtful, and His promises doubtful? Life often looks so very different than we hoped or expected. Some events may simply catch us off guard for a moment, but others shatter us completely. We feel disappointed and disillusioned, and we quietly start to wonder about the reality of God's goodness.

In It's Not Supposed to Be This Way, Lysa invites us into her own journey of faith and, with grit, vulnerability, and honest humor, helps us to: discover how to better process unmet expectations and other painful situations; stand strong and persevere through unsettling relationships and uncertain outcomes; be steadfast when God actually does give us more than we can handle; remind us of the biblical assurance that God is protecting and preparing us.

Jone Vrhel will lead the book discussion. If you are interested in participating in the book study, please sign on the narthex table. The book cost is \$15.

### FRIENDS IN MINISTRY

The Wooden Cross congregation works together with others for sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all. Our ministry and mission partners include:



- Acres of Diamonds.....<https://www.acresofdiamonds.org/>
- Camp Lutherwood.....<http://www.camplutherwood.org/>
- Compass Housing Alliance.....<https://www.compasshousingalliance.org/>
- Earth Ministry.....<https://earthministry.org/>
- Foss Home & Village.....<http://www.fossicare.org/>
- Habitat for Humanity.....<https://www.habitat.org/>
- Holden Village.....<http://www.holdenvillage.org/>
- Hopelink Food Bank.....<https://www.hopelink.org/>
- Lutheran Campus Ministry.....<https://www.lutheransnw.org/campus-ministry>
- Lutheran Community Services Northwest.....<https://lcsnw.org/>
- Lutheran World Relief.....<https://lwr.org/>
- Maltby Food Bank.....<http://www.maltbyfoodbank.org/>
- Seattle-Limbe Sewing Circle.....<https://www.seattlelimbe.org/>



2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 9-2:45 Acom Montessori	2 LWR Quilt Ingathering
3 <b>All Saints Sunday!</b> <b>Daylight Savings Ends!</b> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00 Facility Use: ESUPA Jam Session (Madsen)	4 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7:00p AA	5 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	6 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:00a Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group- Sanctuary	7 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  11:00-3:00 Quilters  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	8 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  5:00-8:00p Facility Use: Violin Rehearsals (Lizzy Peterson)	9  1:00-5:00p Facility Use: Violin Rehearsals (Emily Kelly)
10 <b>Stewardship Commitment Sunday!</b> 9:00 Finance Team 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Temple Talk 1:30-4:00 Facility Use: ESUPA Jam Session (Madsen)	11 <b>Veteran's Day</b> No Acom Montessori  7:00p AA	12 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	13 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group- Sanctuary	14 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	15 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  3:30p Facility Use: Scout Overnight at Firepit area	16 1:30-4:30p Facility Use: Boy Scout Training Emmett Ward, Coor.  5:00-7:30p Facility Use: Violin Recitals (Lizzy Peterson)
17 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00 Facility Use: ESUPA Jam Session (Madsen) <b>DEC NEWS Article Due</b>	18 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7:00p AA	19 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	20 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group- Sanctuary  7:00p Worship Zoom	21 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  11:00-3:00 Quilters  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	22 9-2:45 Acom Montessori	23
24 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 1:30-4:00 Facility Use: ESUPA Jam Session (Madsen)	25 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7:00p AA	26 9-2:45 Acom Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	27 9-2:45 Acom Montessori No Adult Study  7:30p Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service & Pie Social	28 <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 	29 <b>Holiday. Office Closed.</b>	30