

Wooden Cross Newsletter

January, 2025

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

On the humility of God...

Not so long ago the Wednesday Bible Study crew had several conversations on the attributes of God. Several were discussed to get our brains cycling, but one that had not come out in conversation seems well suited to reflect upon this time of year.

The attribute of humility. God, my friends is indeed humble. How else could the One who is actually "omnipotent" (ALL-powerful) leave room for us within this creation to use our powers whether for good or ill? How else can the entire narrative of Christmas make any sense at all if not for the humility of God himself?

The book of Philippians reflects upon Christ as being equal with God who then humbly empties himself and takes on human flesh... the ultimate act of humility. This self-same Jesus teaches that to see him is to see God, so humility is not "foreign" or "strange" to God as though a contradiction to Him, but rather it is one of His defining and indelible attributes.

I've been thinking a great deal of late on what humility God displays in all the ways his creation mocks and derides him, flaunting our will contrary to his, disparaging him as we exalt ourselves, and then even find flaw in God for "not" correcting us, attributing it to God's impotence, or incompetence or perhaps even at times making this the case for God's non-existence all together. Can we not at least acknowledge the goodness of divine humility that guides God's response to all of this?

In a few brief months we will again be forced to confront the depths of divine humility as Christ



endures the mockery and ultimately the un-just judgment of the creatures in their self-righteousness as we walk the Easter narrative. But friends it is striking me that this humility is not simply about a lowly birth in a stable, nor merely about the cross endured... no... it is about every encounter we are graced to receive from our gracious God.

It is His humility that marks His providence... His graciousness... His forgiveness... His mercy... His granting of spiritual gifts and faculties to His people...

... in short it seems to be His humility that frames how He chooses to be known as God should we but take Him at his divine Word to us. But that's kind of the thing here isn't it? How well do we bow our knees and stiff backs and simply take from God what he so wants to provide? It's a strange thing to think of God as being

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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

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

OCT	Week 1:	\$3,711	
	Week 2:	\$3,177	
	Week 3:	\$10,309	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,296</u>	
		\$19,492	
	Weekly Average:		\$4,873

NOV	Week 1:	\$4,038	
	Week 2:	\$4,968	
	Week 3:	\$11,066	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,847</u>	
		\$22,919	
	Weekly Average:		\$5,730

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

Website www.WeAreWoodenCross.org

Pastor Office Hours M-W: 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)

the humble one in this exchange and yet again it is Christ who shows us the truth here. Jesus strips himself down and washes feet as would a mere slave and then teaches his disciples that this is their way forward... the way of humble emptying of self, pride, power and the natural entailment of arrogance.

Will we dare to seek humility as our way... following our Lord and Savior all the way to taking up our crosses and following Him? Will we become more like our God in humility or will we listen to the old-serpent and seek pridefully our own ascendance?

My friends God IS humble AND good. Let us receive the goodness God is granting and bestowing us

daily for the daily bread God provides is sufficient for us, just as God IS sufficient in all things. He is the only one who is after all!

May God fill you with awe and wonder during the ongoing 12 days of Christmas as well as into Epiphany as we look into times and ways in which God shows Himself for our sake... each an act of humble providence for the sake of His people.

Peace and may the Humility of God capture your heart and mind with awe and bring you to the great "Alleluia" of thanks and praise!

revEric

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

By Constitution the Church Council announces this first public notice of **Wooden Cross' Annual Meeting** on **Sunday, January 19, 2024**. The Church Council will host a brunch after the worship service. The **Annual Meeting** will follow the brunch.



We encourage you to attend this important annual event. This is our family remembrance and celebration time! It is also our time to elect our Parish Family Leaders. You are missed when not present.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting is prepared by the Executive Committee (Officers) and the Church Council, in accordance with the Constitution. The agenda shall be posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting and closed 10 days prior to the meeting.

At this date, the agenda will include:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary's Report
3. Elections for Council Officers, Council & Committee Members
4. Pastor's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Ministry and Mission Committees Reports
7. President's Report
8. Adoption of 2024 Budget
9. Resolutions (if any)
10. Election Results
11. Recognitions
12. Benediction

The Annual Report will be available at Church on Sunday, January 12, and from the Church Office during the week prior to the **Annual Meeting**, on **Sunday, January 19**.

GIVING TREE
THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Wooden Cross family for your compassion and giving! Your holiday generosity resulted in **\$805.00** in gift and grocery card donations to support women and children in transitional housing at **Acres of Diamonds** in Duvall; and **\$250.00** for gift cards for children and families served by **HopeLink**.

May your gifts of love be a blessing not only to others but also to you during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

—Christian Response Committee

QUILTER'S GROUP

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

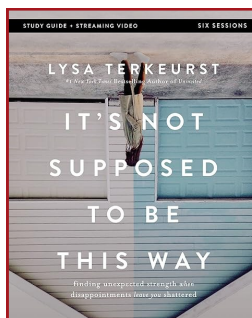


You are invited to join us (see calendar on the bulletin board for Sunday and Thursday dates and times). Bring a sewing machine, or just come and help cut and assemble fabric. Come and reconnect with friends, or make new ones!

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

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.



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; and reminds us of the biblical assurance that God is protecting and preparing us.

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.

The four discussion sessions will be after Sunday worship on **January 12 & 26 and February 9 & 23**. The hybrid sessions—held in person and streaming for those unable to attend—will be co-led by Jone Vrhel and Cinda Woody. If you are interested in participating in the book study, please sign on the narthex table. **Book cost is \$15.**

In “It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way”, the author invites us into her own journey of faith. And with grit, vulnerability, and honest humor, she helps us to

GET READY TO TACKLE HUNGER!

As we prepare for the Super Bowl Festivities, the youth of our nation are gearing up for **Souper Bowl of Caring** on **Sunday, February 2**. It all began with a simple prayer:



“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Scouts from Troop #422 challenge you to be part of our “team” to stamp out hunger! Our goal is to fill the shelves at the Maltby Food Bank! We need you, to bring your “A” game by donating non-perishable food items or monetary donations.

So now it is time for you to gear up and make the big play in support of those in need! Thank you for participating in this team effort! Thank you!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join us after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and fellowship. Weekly volunteers are needed to make and serve the coffee, and to tidy and load the dishwasher afterwards. If you’d like to help, the sign up is on the narthex table. Thank you.



SCOUT SUNDAY!

Scout Sunday is a day to recognize the contributions of young people and adults in the Scouting program.



Scout Sunday will be celebrated at Wooden Cross on **Sunday, February 2** during the worship service. All past and present Scouters—adults and young people—are encouraged to wear their uniforms or scouting pins in support of Scout Sunday.

ONLINE WORSHIP



Wooden Cross church services are available on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. You can watch our Sunday morning worship services online, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services.

Visit our church website—**WeAreWoodenCross.org**, and click on the streaming link. Be sure to “subscribe” to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later.

Through this technology we are able to expand our ministry anywhere in the world and let people learn more about us and our ministry. Join us as we Connect, Grow in faith, and Serve in our communities, following Jesus and helping others do the same!

**ANNUAL MEETING
POTLUCK BRUNCH**

Bring the family and join us for the **Potluck Brunch & Annual Meeting** on **Sunday, January 19**, immediately after the Worship Service.



The Brunch is hosted by the Church Council. We encourage you to attend this important annual event. This is our family remembrance and celebration time! It is also our time to elect our Parish Family Leaders. You are missed when not present.

We look forward to seeing at the Annual Meeting & Brunch.

—Wooden Cross Council

GOD'S NEW WORK

From the beginning of time, God's pattern has been to continually do new things and make things new. Though we can celebrate this every day, the New Year's season is especially fitting to pause and recognize God's work of renewal. Consider the following scriptures (all NIV) and how God is making them real in your own life right now.

- [God] has granted us new life to rebuild ... and repair (Ezra 9:9)
- If [a tree] is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. (Job 14:7)
- He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. (Psalm 40:3)
- See, I am doing a new thing! ... I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)
- You will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. (Isaiah 62:2)
- [God's] compassions ... are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. (Ezekiel 36:26)
- [Jesus] took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)
- Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:4)
- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

**COMMISSIONING
SERVICE**

New and Continuing Elected Council and Committee Members for 2025 will be commissioned at the worship service on **Sunday, January 26**.

**CHRISTMAS DÉCOR
TAKE DOWN**

Volunteers are needed on **Sunday, January 5 at 11:00 AM** to take down and put away the Christmas tree, decorations and lights. Many volunteers make the task fun and fast. Thank you for helping.



JOIN THE CHOIR!

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**.

New Year's Blessing

The eighth day of Christmas,
the eighth day of Creation,
the Next New Day,
New Year's Day.

May every day be a new year's day for you:
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,
to start again.
May you take courage to begin anew. ...

As you let go of the year past,
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...

Every day may you trust your belovedness,
your freedom from having to prove yourself,
and receive the grace that is given to you.

May this year be a year of grace and hope.

—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Holiday. Office Closed. No Acorn Montessori 	2 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	4
5 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Lessons & Carols Worship Service 11:00 Christmas Décor Take Down 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	7 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	8 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 9:00a Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00-8:30 Facility Use: Theater	11 1:00-3:00 Facility Use: Theater
12 Annual Reports Available 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-12:30 Book Study 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	13 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Office Closed. No Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	14 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	15 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00p Worship Zoom	16 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	17 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	18
19 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Meeting 3:00-4:00 Quilting & Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA FEB NEWS Article Due!	20 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	21 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	22 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	23 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	25
26 Installation of Elected Leadership 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-12:30 Book Study 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater	28 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7-9p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm)	29 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater	30 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	31 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	