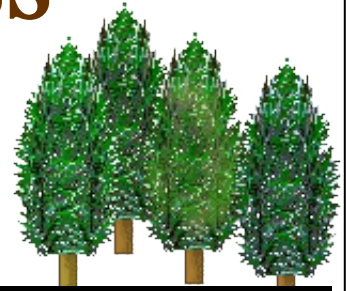


Wooden Cross Newsletter



November, 2021

WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

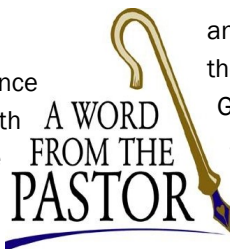
A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Friends in Christ,

Greetings and God's most beautiful presence be with you all! In a recent conversation with some lovely folks I was asked a simple question, "What is your expectation of those who join the church?" It is a great question and what was terrific is that in many ways I was able to answer using the very things we've spent the last 40 days reflecting upon through Luther's writings and the Small Catechism.

Pertinent too is the way I think that this is one of the central questions that forms the core of our gathering of faith as disciples of Jesus. What do we expect of one another and how do we talk about it here at WC?

"Connect" - this first is perhaps the most crucial in the same way that when Jesus calls himself the "vine" and his disciples are the "branches," who apart from him can do nothing. Our first common expectation is that God's people gather in the presence of the "good news" being shared as it is our only source of life and apart from this foundation and connection we have no life and no hope for it any other way. And why gather... well as I hope you saw time and again in Luther's writings - it is only in the Word coming to be "FOR YOU" that this word becomes something that brings new life in Jesus. It is not enough to learn about God, but coming to trust as the core of our Life that all of Jesus' life, death and resurrection is "for you and for your benefit." This is the goal of our gathering together and apart from this feast of life together, we struggle, suffer, starve



and die away as branches cut off from the vine of their sustenance. Together we invite and expect that God's people will discover and be connected time and again with the root of our life, Jesus our savior and friend!

"Grow" - we are called by God to live. Living is a process of growing (hopefully maturing, but at minimum changing!) and as such we expect one another to be engaged in the processes of growing. Now this growing can be in many different avenues of life, some of them are in the "realm" of faith while other are certainly in the realms of "community" (one could insert many different metaphors here to explore the idea. Jesus did after all call his disciples into complex multi faceted relationships. On Sunday's we use the term "friendship," but "family" works, "church" works, "community" works, "body" works -



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- Peter Marschalk.....President
- Steven Carlson.....Vice President
- Sherman Johnson.....Secretary
- Doug PearmanTreasurer
- Scott Kimball..... Council Member
- Betty Scott..... Council Member
- Art Hammersberg..... Council Member
- Deb Schuldt..... Council Member
- Sally Simpson..... Council Member
- Natasha Carlson Council Member

T H A N K S G I V I N G E V E



Our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24, 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 local hunger.

Remember to set your clocks back!

Daylight Savings Time Ends

In the wee hours of

Sunday, November 7.

Fall
Back

2021 Stewardship

STEWARDS
OF GOD'S LOVE

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

2021 Local Giving Budget		
Weekly Average Goal:		\$4,420
SEP	Week 1:	\$3,129
	Week 2:	\$4,812
	Week 3:	\$4,341
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,047</u>
		\$14,329
	Weekly Average:	\$3,582
OCT	Week 1:	\$2,068
	Week 2:	\$2,153
	Week 3:	<u>\$8,322</u>
	Week 4:	\$1,959
	Week 5:	<u>\$3,702</u>
		\$18,204
	Weekly Average:	\$3,641



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-THU, 7:30 AM—3:00 PM

Church Email woodencrosslc@gmail.com

Website 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

Organist / Interim Music Director Seung Lee

Special Music Ensemble Musicians

Altar Guild Sally Simpson

**LUTHERAN WORLD
RELIEF QUILTERS**



More than a dozen quilts were blessed on October 24th in preparation for the Fall LWR Ingathering 2021.

Our faithful cadre of quilters include Cinda Woody, Jone Vrhel, Linda Griffith, Nancy VanDalsem, Peg Jessen, Sally Simpson, Sandy Hammersburg, and Betty Scott. Responding to a challenge for a quick-pieced top were Peg Skiffenes, Robin Hutchinson, and others. Thanks to all of them.

Sorely missed are Sherry Kimball and Doris Simpson who contributed so much to our group. Our prayers go with them as they seek God's guidance in their new home.

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.

Looking ahead, in 2022 we will meet two Sundays a month after church and two Thursday afternoons, or you can get stuff to go and do at home.

FAN ANNUAL DINNER

The **Faith Action Network** will host their **Annual Dinner & Fundraising Celebration** virtually on **Sunday, November 21**. **"Moving Forward with Gratitude"** will celebrate FAN's 10th birthday, the Rev. Paul Benz's years of service, and our shared future. Advocates across the state will be joining us online, with the option to gather in small COVID-safe watch parties. You are welcome to join from your state!

2022 LEADERSHIP

The **Nomination Committee** is busy securing the nominees for open elected leadership positions on the Ministry and Mission Committees—Worship & Formation, Christian Response, Christian Connection, and the Finance Team for the year 2022. 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.



Church Leadership

The Nomination Committee has the responsibility to prepare the ballot of nominees for election at the **Annual Meeting and Brunch, on Sunday, January 23, 2022**. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact one of the **Nomination Committee Members**: Jerry Booren, Jim Hampton and Sue Viebrock.

CAMP UNITY DINNER



Wooden Cross members and friends provide monthly meals to Camp Unity residents in the Woodinville area. The Wooden Cross meal coordinator delivers the meal to Camp Unity, and the residents serve themselves.

The next dinner will be **Thursday, December 16**. If you'd like to bring a food item, please sign up on the church narthex or contact the church office. Meal donations should be brought to Wooden Cross by 5:00 PM. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry.

REFUGEE KITS

Thank you to our Wooden Cross family for your generous contributions to the Refugee Kits. We were able to raise \$1,095.00! Several items were also donated, and we also received a \$250 Thrivent Grant. Betty, Deb, Marc, Robin, Sandra and Peg were able to pack 14 Baby Kits and 13 Bathroom kits. All the kits will be delivered by Jerry and Sandra Booren to Lutheran Community Services in Seattle for local disbursement. God's work, our hands in action. Thanks again. —Christian Connection Committee

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

each invites a different consideration, but all serve in some way to explore the idea here!) In both faith and life together we are bonded by God into something that is meant by God to grow as all other living beings do. Each member of this body is a growing member as that is what living bodies do by definition... growing in faith (our "connection" with God) and in friendship (our "connection" with those God makes our own). We acknowledge that growth comes in a variety of forms and experiences and so we less expect that everyone follow a prescribed path, but rather more that each member be engaged in the forms of practice, study, prayer, gatherings and conversations with those who aid them in their growth in both realms of "faith trusting in Jesus" and "friendship."

"Go" - Both of the two previous "expectations" flow naturally into this third (which if you notice leads right back into the other two... circle complete!!!!) This expectation is that as one who is connected with God, who is growing in faith and in connection with others, that one finds a way to connect their God given talents, gifts and resources in some way to serve and invite others so THEY TOO will have the gospel enter their life and they could discover their calling to follow Jesus. Over the past 40 days, I've been excited to share some of Luther's "earthy" ways of thinking through the call to "go" in the daily work of "sewing, plowing, and harvesting." This down to earth application is precisely what we expect in this call to "go, invite and serve." It is an expectation that each member will explore their daily commitment to live as

- a "little light, shining"...
- a "voice in the wilderness, sharing"...
- a "priesthood made up of all believers"...

with each recognizing that this is not some "extra-ordinary, special work" but rather part and parcel to who we are in our daily work and roles in which we each already exist. I think Luther sees this as something that inevitably just happens as people are connected in trust to their Author of Life, I do as well and I'd say that this pretty well sums up our three part "expectations" in being disciples of Jesus.

As we come to the end of the church season of Pentecost (whose seasonal color is green as in "growth"... go figure) it is absolutely timely to think through this question of expectations. These are not "to do's" so much as a way of reflecting on what we mutually hope together... as a people we Connect with God whose gospel work reaches us, we Grow in our trust of God as the core of faith itself... we Grow in our mutual connections God creates between us... and we live lives of invitation and service that the world would come to know and trust Jesus. In these ways we simply expect of each other that we are a people walking behind Jesus' leading, following him wherever he chooses to lead us.

May God help you and I and any others we encounter Connect, Grow and Go that we would follow Jesus wherever he leads us as a people full of life and hope!!!

Peace
revEric

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.



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.

C H R I S T M A S G I V I N G T R E E



The Wooden Cross Christmas Giving Tree will up on November 28! It will be loaded with gift tags to meet the requests of our ministry partners who serve people in need throughout our community.

Our members are God’s hands doing His work. Our Christmas giving allows those partners to meet the needs of young and old who may otherwise have lonely, meager Christmases. Through the Giving Tree and our monetary gifts, such as to ELCA Good Gifts, we can share Divine love with neighbors in many practical ways during Advent when we Christians feel so blessed by the incredible gift of God’s son, Jesus, to a hurting world.

Acres of Diamonds. This Duvall transitional living residence serves women and children. We will be collecting items specifically for the children, such as weighted blankets to help with trauma they have experienced. We will also be collecting other useful items, and donations for meat certificates. Checks may be made payable to: “Wooden Cross” and note AoD in the memo line.

**L I G H T S ! C A M E R A !
A U C T I O N !**

The **Annual Auction** is **Friday, November 5!** The auction fellowship and fundraising will be in-person in the sanctuary. (COVID limitations will require masks and social distancing this year.) An indoor dinner will not be served. Instead, we will have an outdoor **Tail Gating Dinner from 5:30-6:30 PM** with warm soup, appetizers and cookies.

The Wooden Cross Annual Auction supports missions and ministries such as Acres of Diamonds, Camp Lutherwood, Camp Unity/Homeless Ministry, ELCA Disaster Response, Foss Home, Habitat for Humanity, Holden Village, HopeLink, LCS/Compass Housing Alliance, Local and World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Maltby Food Bank, and Seattle-LIMBA Sewing Circle. Thank you for your support and participation! —Peg Skiftenes and Deb Schuldt, 2021 Auction Co-Coordinators

Foss Home. We will again be collecting Christmas donations for the Foss Home Music and Memory Program. This program provides residents with i-pods that have personalized playlists. The gift of personalized music helps residents with a range of cognitive and physical challenges find renewed meaning and connection, tapping into deep memories not lost to dementia. Monetary donations can be designated by making checks payable to “Wooden Cross/Foss Home”. Thank you for your generosity toward our senior citizens!

HopeLink Gifts. This family agency serves children and youth in King County. Monetary donations will supply a child or youth with gifts for Christmas. Parents select appropriate gifts for their children. Please make your checks payable to: “Wooden Cross” and note HopeLink in the memo line.

Camp Unity. We are also collecting donations for ORCA cards to help residents with transportation to jobs, appointments, shopping, etc. Please make your checks payable to: “Wooden Cross” and note Camp Unity in the memo line.

All gifts and donations need to be delivered to Wooden Cross **by Sunday, December 12.**

—Christian Response Committee

E L C A G O O D G I F T S

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.



An ELCA Good Gift, given in the name of your loved one, honors them while helping fight hunger or disease, transforming lives and growing the church. Choose a gift from the catalog, and place your order from different ELCA churchwide ministries. There are dozens of other opportunities!

Consider getting a card in honor of a friend or loved one. These gifts will make a big impact on the needs in our global communities. For more information, visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or search “ELCA Good Gifts.”

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	2 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p <i>Boy Scouts</i>	3 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Uke Group <i>(Sanctuary)</i>	4 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Handbells Today No Quilters Today	5 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 5:30p Tailgate Dinner! 6:30p Annual Auction!	6 LWR Quilt Ingathering 
7 All Saints Day! Daylight Savings Ends! Stewardship Commitment Sunday! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	8 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 5:30p Camp Unity Dinner 7:00p AA	9 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p <i>Boy Scouts</i> 7:00p Christian Response	10 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Uke Group <i>(Sanctuary)</i> 7:00P CHURCH	11 No <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Handbells Today 1:30p Quilters	12 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	13 6:00-9:00p <i>Facility Use: Scout Event</i>
14 9:00 Finance Team 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	15 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	16 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p <i>Boy Scouts</i>	17 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00-4:00 Uke Group <i>(Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 p Worship Committee	18 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Handbells Today 9:30-12:00 <i>Good Neighbors Food Bank</i> 1:30p Quilters	19 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	20
21 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service DEC NEWS Article Due	22 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	23 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p <i>Boy Scouts</i>	24 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Adult Bible Study 7:30p Thanksgiving Eve Communion	25 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed 	26 Holiday. Office Closed.	27
28 Advent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Giving Tree Set Up 11:00 Decorating for Advent/ Christmas/Epiphany— Banners, Tree, Church outdoor lights, etc.	29 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	30 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p <i>Boy Scouts</i>				