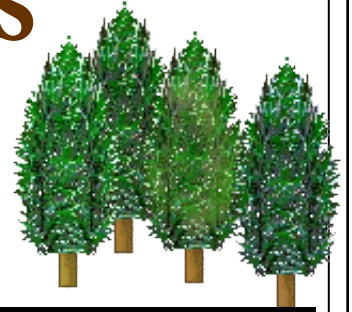


# Wooden Cross Newsletter



September, 2024

**WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

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

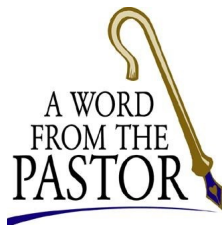
## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

**“Dear Lord, I only have eyes for you.”**

Dearest Friends in Christ,

I write to you as a word of encouragement and warning both. We live in a realm and at a time when there is no shortage of possible distractions, enticing and alluring, arrayed before us as God’s church that lest we have the discernment to seek God’s Holy Spirit we could find ourselves drawn away by voices “not” or our Good Shepherd. While this is no “new” thing as this is the reality God’s church has always faced in it’s long history, what draws me to share the concern with you today is that we do live in a time when these distractions and voices have an unprecedented degree of access to us individually through our technologies and how we have allowed our every moment interactions to be shaped by these. In days gone by (what we might think of as the “olden days”) influences had often to be filtered through a whole community in order to be shared... an idea wasn’t shared only one-on-one but often had to be shared in some public sphere and then processed and filtered through the same prior to be considered “authoritative.” In fact the ability of an idea to “survive” this filtering process is what might have even established it’s authority as an idea to be received and through which an individual, or family, or community or church could be shaped.

Today however, ideas are curated and individualized using the vehicles of technology to place before any one of our “eyes and attention” ideas that have been curated technologically to feed you according to your studied interests, biases, and inclinations with



few checks even possible within families, communities, or churches before these ideas get blasted to us to shape our individual opinions, thoughts, and yes spiritual ties. As such each of us are susceptible increasingly to the spiritual dimensions of “individualism” taken to its technological conclusion, where each is increasingly cut off and isolated, responsible now to frame their own individual concepts of truth, reality, morality, and spirituality... to use theological language here, we are being technologically aided in a quest to be ‘like God... discerning for ourselves good and evil.’

Now some may hear what I’m saying and wonder what’s the concern here? Isn’t this something more like the vaunted “freedom” our culture is supposed to represent and affirm as the greatest good? I suppose it depends on if one actually thinks the point of Scripture

*(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>JUN</b>	Week 1:	\$5,829	
	Week 2:	\$2,519	
	Week 3:	\$6,295	
	Week 4:	\$1,051	
	Week 5:	<u>\$735</u>	
		<b>\$16,429</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$3,286</b>
<b>JUL</b>	Week 1:	\$3,724	
	Week 2:	\$3,210	
	Week 3:	\$8,753	
	Week 4:	<u>\$1,815</u>	
		<b>\$17,502</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$4,376</b>



**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

**P A S T O R ' S M E S S A G E***(continued from page 1)*

and God's narrative is to establish "freedom" as the reason God creates, justifies, redeems and sanctifies. I suggest that this is not the point... shocking I know. But I'll go one further, if you happen to recognize the quote above" you will undoubtedly notice it is a summary of the first temptation offered to Eve and Adam and through which ultimately they rebelled having their wills turned from a desire to exist with and in cooperation of God's good order, instead seeking their own supposed "ascendancy" heeding the tempter's word of deceit.

To fall to the deceit is the very nature of the fall, destructive in the beginning, just as destructive in our day as well. The tempter yet speaks... how will we answer?

Jesus shows us THE way (the only way it turns out)... the voice of the tempter is only really met by the Word of God on our lips, in our minds, and confessed when that voice calls us to place ourselves as gods and goddesses upon the throne. What comes across as a "little" thing of disregarding God and taking matters into our own hands, ethics, morals and societal structures is in Scripture the biggest of matters for it is the confluence of pride and idolatry at work... as seductive as it has ever been. The challenge however is that in an increasingly individualized and spiritually disconnected context this whisper more easily arrives before any one of us before any of the rest of us as God's people might ever know the whisper and whisperer's form. In this individualized context there are fewer checks to that whisper before it creates and claims authority in one's life. The whisper seductively authorizes us to claim "my will be done" while Christ calls us to ever confess "Thy (God's) will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And yet we are never without aid nor recourse...

The Word of God is ever near us... in our hearts and on our lips. The Word of God is first and foremost Jesus Christ himself and it is in him that all creation exists and it is for him alone. He fights this fight for our sake and he will not be bested... he is the "light that shines in the darkness which the darkness cannot overcome." As baptized Christians we are connected to our Lord Jesus as his very body and as such he is in this fight with us and for our sake as his children and

his church... we are his beloved Bride and the Groom will not fail! The Word of God is also that which God has graciously provided us to study, learn, and have steep our every thought and interaction as we come not just to know the Holy Scriptures with our minds, but cherish the One we discover through this faithful witness and testimony to Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Who with God the Father, and the Holy Spirit are our Triune God, one God world without end! This testimony of Holy Scripture is a gift to us to cherish as our sword to answer the words of the tempter whenever he should begin to whisper the damnable lies, hellbent (literally) upon our mutual destruction. God's word is to be on our hearts, minds, and lips, in our homes and in our workplaces, before our eyes and in our families, shaping our church and developing us in the faithful ways of living as God's redeemed in the world for the sake of sharing this incredible gospel of Jesus the life for the world!

Enshrine yourself in God's Word... what Paul wrote of as "put on the whole armor of God." Recognize that absent God's Word we actually are powerless against the tempter's voice(s) and lies. Absent God, we truly can do nothing here (and No I am not just being alarmist or hyperbolic here... this is the Scriptural reality in which we live.) So friends do NOT go unarmed into this world! Trust in God and immerse yourself in God's Word. Test and discern the spirits of what is being placed in front of you remembering that as Christ's body together, we are equipped to best discern for no one of us has every gift provided by God for the building up of the whole body... each of us has been granted some gifts that together we work so that the body of Christ, his church might be grown and edified. Connect with God, grow in your knowledge and witness to our Triune God through immersing in the Word, that we might effectively Go out and bear witness to our life giving Lord on His terms and in His Truth and not something of our own fancy or creation.

May your heart and mind dwell deeply in our Lord and Savior and may you have eyes and ears only for His blessed Voice for the sheep know the voice of their Good Shepherd!

Peace  
revEric

**CONNECT — GROW — SERVE**

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

### WOODINVILLE STOREHOUSE FOOD BANK

The Woodinville Storehouse Food Bank is a Christian organization that provides fresh food and prayer support to members of our community.



The WSH welcomes those in need to spend time in comfort and prayer, where healthy food and support are available every Tuesday and Saturday. Anyone who is experiencing food insecurity is invited to become a client for as long as they need. WSH provides quality food including dairy, baked goods, produce, meat and vegetables. Clients are treated with respect and care by volunteers who are equipped to pray for them if desired.

Located on the ground floor of the Woodinville Community Church, the WSH is operated by a coalition of churches and denominations serving the local community by providing nourishment and ministry to those in need. For more information, visit: [www.woodinvillestorehouse.org](http://www.woodinvillestorehouse.org)

Wooden Cross will have seasonal food drives to support the WSH. Please remember to check the “use by” dates and do not donated expired food. Thank you.

### GODS WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ—every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is September 8, 2024. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

### WOODEN CROSS IS NOW STREAMING!



You can now stream Wooden Cross church services live on Sunday mornings on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. Through this channel, you are able to connect online and watch the live stream of our Sunday morning worship services, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services.

It’s easy to find us, just visit us at our church website—[WeAreWoodenCross.org](http://WeAreWoodenCross.org), then click on the streaming link. Choosing to subscribe allows you to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later.

This technology allows us to expand our ministry anywhere in the world and let people learn more about us and our ministry as we Connect, Grow in faith, and Serve in our communities, following Jesus and helping others do the same!

### 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!

### 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, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you.



**HARVEST FAIR  
DINNER AUCTION!**



The Wooden Cross Auction Team is excited to share some exciting news about our upcoming **Harvest Fair Dinner Auction!**

The Dinner Auction will take place on **Saturday, October 26**, beginning at **5:00 PM**. The main course will be a chili cookoff (with bragging rights and a prize going to the winner!) Auction attendees will vote for their favorite chili. If you would like to be a chili cookoff contestant, please RSVP as soon as possible to Carla or Peggy. Spots are limited!

The Silent and Live Auctions will have a variety of items for ALL ages, with lots of spirited bidding! Entertainment will be provided by Marilyn and the "G" Strings. Dress is harvest barn comfortable!

This family-friendly event is a wonderful occasion to relax, visit, and enjoy a meal with friends. This lively evening is also a great opportunity for you to invite your neighbors, relatives and friends. The cost for members is \$5 per person, or \$10 per family. Guests are free! Please sign up in the Narthex, and note the ages of any children attending.

**You can help by donating items!** There are many ways of donating. Consider re-gifting a new item; contact businesses you have a relationship with for a donation or gift certificate; consider offering a service, or baking a special dish. Donation forms will be available on the entrance table.

Proceeds from this event will benefit: Acres of Diamonds; Foss Home and Village; Maltby Food Bank; and Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center.

*The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.* We appreciate your continued support and participation!

Carla Peterson and Peggy Reiber  
2024 Auction Co-Coordinator



**YOUR AUCTION  
AND GARAGE SALE  
DONATIONS AT WORK**

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 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.

**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, beginning September 12.



**CONNECT — GROW — SERVE**

2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Accompanist _____	2 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed.  7:00p AA	3  7-9 p Boy Scouts	4 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group	5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori First Day of School	6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	7
8 God's Work Our Hands Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Accompanist _____  11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7:00p AA	10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group  7:00p Church Council	12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsals Begin	13 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	14
15  9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service (Choir)	16 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7:00p AA	17 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	18 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group  7:00p Worship Zoom Mtg	19 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	21
22  9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch  OCT NEWS Articles Due Today!	23 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7:00p AA	24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7-9 p Boy Scouts	25 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group	26 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  11:00-3:00 Quilters  4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	28
29 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	30 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori  7:00p AA					