

Wooden Cross Newsletter

February, 2025

WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

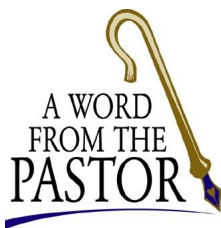
A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Numbers, Time and Life

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May grace and peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ our Lord!

So it's 2025... and I can still remember back when I was a younger lad how most everything I thought placed a year that "advanced" as being so very "futuristic." Maybe it was the influence of things like *2001 A Space Odyssey* (but lets be honest it was more likely to do with the *Jetsons*) but whatever it was back then, a year like 2025 just simply felt like it belonged to the "future" somehow. And yet now here we are, and truth be told it doesn't really feel like that radical departure from "what has been" to qualify for what my younger mind expected of the "future." But then again I am older too, hopefully a little wiser... certainly with some more "mileage" on the ole frame. I suppose it also can be that it might be harder to perceive the "future" as anything other than the slow accumulation of the natural changes and developments one experiences as you live day-by-day into it. Perhaps its the living and crying and loving and failing that is what moves us slowly yet surely into the "future" without needing to be any real radical departure from the "what-has-been" but rather the culmination of adapting to the realities unfolding around us in each of the succeeding seasons of life. It might be less that we have not reached the "future" but perhaps as a 50-Somesuch year old, as I approach the final third or so of life, maybe I've grown adaptable enough to live in the "future" that has actually unfolded rather than the one some other had envisioned and placed before me.



Perhaps I was mistaken about what something like the "future" even really means in the first place. Where I had been looking for grand developments and endeavors that would be radical changes, perhaps all futures are merely the gentle and yet pervasive movement of how

we human types live, grow, and change across time for good, bad, and otherwise. I think I'm realizing that the act of living in this 2025 presents the same and common sets of conundrums humanity seems to be continually struggling to sort out generation to generation.

"Who am I?"

"What truly matters?"

"Will I matter?"

"Can I love and be loved?"

"What is of highest value?"

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- Peggy Reiber President
- Shawn Quinn Vice President
- Carolyn Gross Secretary/Treasurer
- Jone Vrhel Council Member
- Nancy VanDalsem Council Member
- Art Hammersberg Council Member
- Peg Skiftenes 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.



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

2025 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,812

| | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 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 |

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------------|
| DEC | Week 1: | \$2,990 |
| | Week 2: | \$3,445 |
| | Week 3: | \$3,464 |
| | Week 4: | \$6,059 |
| | Week 5: | <u>\$24,836</u> |
| | | \$40,795 |

Weekly Average: \$8,159



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)

“Can I recover from failure?”

“Will I make some difference?”

“What is it to know and be known?”

“Will my expenditures of time, effort, and resources actually last?”

It seems to me that these questions that drive us are just as real today as they appear to have been 100s if not 1000s of years ago to those people who lived and breathed and toiled and loved in their futures as these unfolded in their own times and places. True questions then, true questions now, these questions are likely among the common driving questions that humanity wrestles with irrespective of their past, present, or their perceived future. These questions keep us grounded through time and in some ways bring us to recognize that perhaps more important than our recognition of the passage of time, it is that we are able to remain grounded as fully human creatures even as time passes around us.

The questions keep us grounded. And perhaps more wondrously still, I think for those truly wrestling we inevitably discover the God who gifted us with these living questions.

Friends, God moves with us even as time moves along and I find that to be a truly wondrous thing. While my “younger-lad” self was looking for a future that would be a radical departure from what has been, my older, care-worn self actually no longer wants some radical departure, but rather I have discovered a deep longing for “that which abides”, stable and sure even through something so chaotic as the passage of time. My heart not only longs for that which would abide, but

actually has found rest in the one WHO abides with us even as the future continues to unfold. And it is He who gives me confidence to face not only what has turned out to be the “future” but gives me peace in reflecting on the many possible “futures” yet to unfold before us. It is God himself who helps us with the living questions as He reveals His answers to us... for who can better help us answer than the one who makes us and gifts us and provides for us in this and in all possible futures, even as His providence has been stewarding us up to this moment, faithfully providing us with our “past” to bring us to this moment of “now” in our present?

The questions are there as is God who comes to dwell among us and help us discover His best answers to help us discover that we do matter, we can create and contribute, and that Faith, Hope, and Love truly are of greatest Value yesterday, today and tomorrow.

And though it may have taken a lifetime to discover... these things God is revealing have more significance than the fact that it's “2025”... turns out this is just a number... but life lived in faith helps me see that the number doesn't matter nearly so much as God who keeps us grounded and truly alive in the questions of the ages.

So let the “future” come... and may our 2025 be blessed for we have much work to do and many blessings to discover and convey as God's people living faithfully into our eternal future with Him... for in Him the number really doesn't matter very much.

Peace in Christ dearest children of God!

RevEric

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.**

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

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!

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.fosscare.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/>



2025



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 4:00-7:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Lumsden) |
| 2 Souper Bowl of Caring Scout Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA | 3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group 7:00p AA | 4 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group | 5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 6:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater | 6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 7 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori | 8 1:00-6:00p Facility Use: Scout Pinewood Derby (Manny Wilson) |
| 9 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Worship Service 11:30-12:30 Book Study (Prayer Chapel) 12:30-3:00p Facility Use: ESUPA | 10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group 7:00p AA | 11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group | 12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00P Church Council 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater | 13 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 14 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori | 15 |
| 16 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-5:00p Facility Use: ESUPA MAR NEWS Article Due! | 17 President's Day Holiday No Acorn Montessori Mid-Winter Break 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group | 18 No Acorn Montessori Mid-Winter Break 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group | 19 No Acorn Montessori Mid-Winter Break 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00p Worship Mtg- on Zoom 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater | 20 No Acorn Montessori Mid-Winter Break 4:00-5:00p Handbells 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 21 No Acorn Montessori Mid-Winter Break | 22 5:00-7:30p Facility Use: Scout Recruiting Movie Night (Michael Ligot) |
| 23 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Worship Service 11:30-12:30 Book Study (Prayer Chapel) 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA | 24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group 7:00p AA | 25 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater Group 7-9 p Boy Scouts | 26 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater | 27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater 7:30p Choir Rehearsal | 28 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori | |