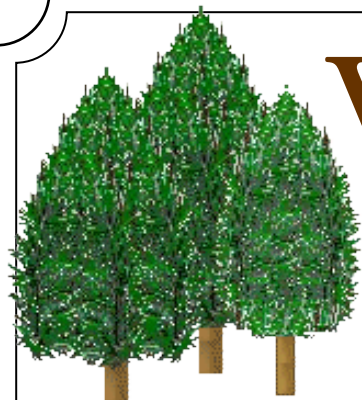
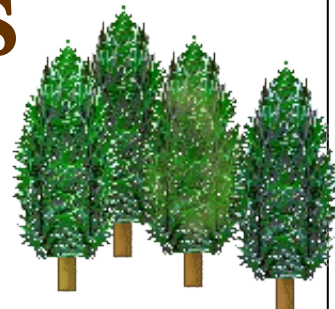




Wooden Cross Newsletter

November, 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

Looking Toward Advent

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

Walking through stores already one can already be struck with “Oh yeah, I guess Christmas is coming...” vibes. But before we get there, I’d like to encourage folks to pause long enough to remember that in the Christian faith, before we get to Jesus’ arrival we always find it important to think back to what it means that he is “coming.” This is Advent, for the church it is both about looking back to all it means that Jesus “came” but also a looking forward to him “coming again.”

When God took on flesh, it was a fulfillment of a long held expectation that all was going to change and in Christ Jesus all DID change for forgiveness and reconciliation with God was made complete alone through His work on our behalf. Yet, we do live in the promise yet to be fully “realized” by each of us subjectively, in our own lived experience. For the Christian lives within the promise, even as we each await our experience of that promise made complete. This comes about either through our own death (which by the way IS what Halloween is SUPPOSED to be about) or through Jesus’ triumphant return which is also yet promised. There really is no “third option” here... it’s “death” or “return” yet here is the glorious good news for those who believe... BOTH or these are part of God’s good News which for us is actually joy and not mourning.

Christmas may get all the “glow and soft fuzzy feelings” basking as the day does in a whole lot of



cultural nostalgia (and believe me, I say this as one who LOVES ME SOME CHRISTMAS!) yet it is Advent that helps us remember that Jesus’ coming is the best of Good News and it is a story YET UNFOLDING in God’s care and keeping... we are mid story and the chapter just isn’t over yet... and you are going to LOVE the ending when all is made well and the King of Kings rules a kingdom of peace and providence and compassion all in the glorious company of all the saints and powers of the cosmos living in a new creation so glorious it is literally inconceivable!

This is like Tolkien’s Return of the King (extended edition... always extended edition OR book, the book is always better still) yet even better and trust me I say that God alone will likely ever be the One who can do better than Return of the King!

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Peggy Reiber President
 Doug Pearman Vice President
 Carolyn Gross Secretary/Treasurer
 Jone Vrhel Council Member
 Nancy VanDalsem Council Member
 Art Hammersberg Council Member
 Peg Skiftenes Council Member

WEDNESDAY 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

SEP	Week 1:	\$5,221	
	Week 2:	\$4,008	
	Week 3:	\$2,219	
	Week 4:	<u>\$3,731</u>	
		\$15,179	

Weekly Average: \$3,795

OCT	Week 1:	\$7,715	
	Week 2:	\$2,150	
	Week 3:	\$4,015	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,030</u>	
		\$15,910	

Weekly Average: \$3,978

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 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 Jone Vrhel

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

So don't be too quick to move into Christmas Zone just yet. Spend some time revisiting the Old Testament prophets and look to these ancient stories that inform us what God is up to in Jesus and all that He worked for our sake and for this world He loves. Perhaps only then are we truly "ready" for his coming... both in the ancient days gone past AND in the day ahead when it is at last time for his Coming again.

Blessed Advent to all, that God will shape and mold us for His Coming for us!

RevEric

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Please help make this a brighter Christmas for those in need. During the month of November Christian Response will be collecting monetary donations, and gift cards for **HopeLink** and **Acres of Diamonds**. 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. 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

2026 LEADERSHIP

The **Nomination Committee** and **Council** have begun 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 2026.

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 18, 2026**. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact: Blaine Wastell or Doug Pearman.



AUCTION THANK YOU!

The Annual Wooden Cross "Holy Guacamole—Fiesta & Fundraiser" was a great success...and a lot of fun!



We raised over \$11,000! Proceeds from the Auction will support Acres of Diamonds, Boy Scouts of America, Maltby Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated. The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.

Carla Peterson and Peggy Reiber
Co-Coordinators

CONNECT GROW — SERVE

Daylight Savings Time Ends
In the wee hours of
Sunday, November 2.
Remember to set your
clocks back on hour!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FALL INGATHERING



Many quilts were blessed on October 19 in preparation for the 2025 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.



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!

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE



Our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 26, 7:00 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.



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!

2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 All Saints Sunday! Daylight Savings Ends! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>(Doug Pearman)</i> <i>Fellowship Host-Worship</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	3 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	4 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	5 8:00-12:00 <i>Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary)</i> 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study	6 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	7 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	1 LWR Quilt Ingathering 8
9 Stewardship Commitment Sunday! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Property</i> 11:30a Christian Connection Mtg 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	10 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	11 Veteran's Day <i>No Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	12 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 7:00p Church Council	13 Staff Vacation Day. Office Closed. 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	14 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	15 12:00-4:30p <i>Facility Use:</i> <i>Emergency</i> <i>Preparedness</i> <i>(Boy Scouts)</i>
16 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>(Pr. Kristy Daniels)</i> <i>Fellowship Host-Christian</i> <i>Connection</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	17 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	18 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 4:00-7:00 <i>Facility Use:</i> <i>Violin Rehearsal</i> <i>(Pederson)</i>	19 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study	20 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	21 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	22 5:00-7:30 <i>Facility Use:</i> <i>Violin Recital</i> <i>(Pederson)</i>
23 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>(Pr. Kristy Daniels)</i> <i>Call to Worship-Hand Bells</i> <i>Fellowship Host-_____</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	24 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	25 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	26 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Bible Study 7:00p Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service & Pie Social	27 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed 	28 Holiday. Office Closed.	29
30 Advent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-_____</i> <i>Stewardship Campaign</i> <i>Report</i> 11:00 <i>Decorating for Advent/</i> <i>Christmas/Epiphany—</i> <i>Banners, Tree, Church</i>						