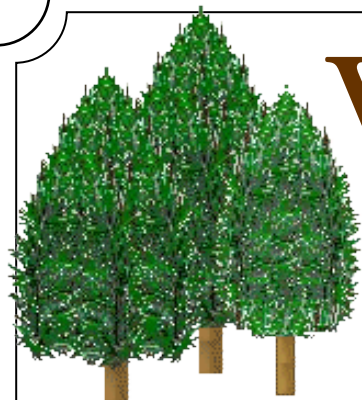
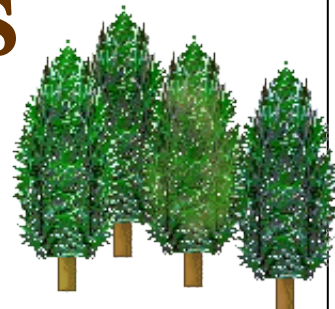




Wooden Cross Newsletter

March 2026



WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Wooden Cross Staffing Update

I am pleased to announce that we are two-thirds of the way to filling our staffing vacancies – at least for the short term.

Last month I described the Synod approach to helping congregations through the process to fill an open Pastor position. That process involves a Care Pastor and a Transition Facilitator. We have our Care Pastor on board. Most of you have met Pastor Jim Kruse over the past couple of weeks. Here is a bit of his background story.

Pastor Jim Kruse was born and grew up in Boulder, Colorado, and his family moved to Hawaii when he was fifteen. Pastor Jim graduated from Kailua High School in 1971, and went on to graduate from Valparaiso University in Indiana with B.A. in psychology. He earned a M.Div. degree from Christ Seminary–Seminex and was ordained in 1981.

Pastor Jim was called to congregational ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianapolis and St. John's Lutheran Church in Stone Bank, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee. Pastor Jim also earned a M. Arch. degree from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and took time away from the parish to serve as Director of Community Life at the Grünwald Guild, in Plain, Washington for two years in 1995 and 96.

In 1997 Pastor Jim returned to congregational work as Lead Pastor of Christ Lutheran in Edmonds, WA, and Lead Pastor at Cross of Christ Lutheran in Bellevue, WA, beginning in 2006. Since 2012, he has served

numerous transition ministries at the invitation of the Bishop's Office of the Northwest Washington Synod.

Pastor Jim lives in Woodinville with his wife, Arlys, a retired Building Systems Engineer and hospital Facilities Manager. They share their home with three dogs, Hopi, a 12-year-old German Shorthaired Pointer, and two Golden Retrievers, Eli, age 10, and Tremor, age 5. Tremor and Arlys work as therapy team with two programs. The team visits schools and libraries with Reading With Rover, a remedial reading program. They also respond to "call outs" with the national organization, HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response, providing a critically needed calming presence in moments of high anxiety and stress. Arlys has served on the Board of Directors for both organizations.

Pastor Jim will serve as our Care Pastor until a permanent pastor has been called, which could be as

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Doug Pearman President

Blaine Wastell Vice President

Peter Marschalk..... Secretary/Treasurer

Art Hammersberg..... Council Member

Nancy Van Dalsem..... Council Member

Carolyn Gross Council Member

Nancy Strand Council Member

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
REMINDER!



Remember to “Spring Ahead” for Daylight Savings. Set your clocks one hour ahead. Daylight Savings begins at **2:00 AM, Sunday, March 8.**

LENT DINNER DISCUSSION

You are invited to join us for our **Lenten Dinner Discussions** on Wednesday evenings, at **6:15PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Pr. Jim will lead the weekly devotional conversations. A Lent service will follow dinner at 7PM.



As part of the Lenten Dinner Discussions, we are seeking people who can help supply a simple meal of soup and bread. There will be a sign-up on the narthex table for those who can help with this. Thank you. May God bless us in this season of growing in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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

2026 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$2,918

JAN	Week 1:	\$11,579	
	Week 2:	\$2,629	
	Week 3:	\$3,111	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,589</u>	
		\$19,910	
	Weekly Average:		\$4,978

FEB	Week 1:	\$6,725	
	Week 2:	\$6,820	
	Week 3:	<u>\$835</u>	
		\$14,380	
	Weekly Average:		\$4,793

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—2:00 PM

Church Email woodencrosslc@gmail.com

Website..... WeAreWoodenCross.org

Pastor Office Hours Mon 10-2PM; Wed 11-2PM; and by appointment

Pastor Email jameskruse814@gmail.com

Pastor Rev. Jim Kruse

Secretary / Bookkeeper Tricia Gensman

Music Director / Organist Seung Lee

Altar Guild Coordinator Jone Vrhel

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

God calls us to grow in faith. Members and friends are invited to grow in their relationships with God. Come and join us for a participant-led Bible Study on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM**. A book of the Bible is selected to read and study together over several weeks.



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!



Palm Sunday March 29
Worship Service.....10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday April 2
Worship Service.....7:00 PM

Good Friday April 3
Worship Service.....7:00 PM

Easter Sunday April 5
Easter Potluck Brunch.....8:30 AM
Festival Worship Service10:00 AM

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE!

The Annual Wooden Cross Garage Sale will be **Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25**. A BIG thank you to Pati McGraw for coordinating this year's Garage Sale.



Volunteers are also needed to help with set up during the week; cashiering and assisting shoppers and clean up on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up at the entrance table.

Garage Sale items may be brought to the church after Easter through Monday, April 20. Items will be collected and stored in the classroom across from the Nursery. If you have smaller items you'd like to donate please bring them in a box with a lid, or one that can be closed and stacked. **Please do not bring computers or monitors—as these items do not sell.** *Proceeds from the Garage Sale will support Wooden Cross missions, ministries and projects.*

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAYS

Church members and friends are invited to help “Spruce Up the Church Grounds” for our Easter Celebration Sunday on April 5.



The work party dates are: **Tuesday, March 24, and Friday, March 27** from **9:30 AM to 12:00 NOON**. Tasks include cleaning up windfall branches from winter storms; raking out planted beds; power wash the sidewalks and gutters; and lay mulch as needed.

If you could spare some time and energy on any of these days, we'd love to have you. Please bring appropriate clothing, hand tools and gloves.

Thank you from the Property Team.

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.



CONNECT GROW — SERVE

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

(continued from page 1)

long as a year.

We have also filled the soon-to-be-open Office Manager/Bookkeeper position. Kathy will retire February 26 after almost 31 years as our one-and-only office person. I spoke to Pastor Lou Accola a couple of days ago at Safeway. He recalled that, when he hired Kathy, congregation members were concerned that “she was too young” and how would this work? Well, 30 years later, I think it worked out just fine.

Tricia Gensman is our new Office Manager/Bookkeeper and is working next to Kathy to import as much knowledge as possible before Kathy retires. She was born in Anacortes and, while her life has taken

her throughout the United States, she always comes back to where her heart lies, her beautiful home state of Washington. Tricia and her husband, Mike, love the outdoors, they spend their weekends biking, hiking, and kayaking, yes, even in the rain. Tricia is blessed to have her daughter, Taylor, and her mother, Pat, in the area and gets to spend a lot of time every week with them as well. A few of Tricia’s favorite indoor hobbies are baking, reading, and crafting. She is very excited to be a part of our team here at Wooden Cross and looks forward to meeting as many of the congregation as she can. Please stop in and say hi.

Doug Pearman

Church Council President

CONNECT GROW — SERVE



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.fossicare.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/

2026

March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Lent 2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Service <i>Fellowship Host-</i> <i>1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA</i>	2 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> <i>7:00p AA</i>	3 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> <i>7-9 p Boy Scouts</i>	4 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>9:00a Facility Use: WGC</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> 6:15p Lent Soup Supper 7 PM Lent Service	5 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> <i>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</i>	6 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i>	7
8 Lent 3 Daylight Savings Begins! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Service <i>Fellowship Host-Church Council</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch <i>1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA</i> 5:00p Christian Connection Comm.	9 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> <i>7:00p AA</i>	10 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> 7:00p Church Council <i>7-9 p Boy Scouts</i>	11 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> 6:15p Lent Soup Supper 7 PM Lent Service	12 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells <i>6:30-9:00 Theater Group</i> <i>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</i>	13 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i>	14
15 Lent 4 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Service <i>Fellowship Host-</i> <i>1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA</i> APR NEWS Article Due Today!	16 <i>Acorn Parent Conferences</i> <i>7:00p AA</i>	17 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 6:30p Worship Meeting (Fellowship Hall) <i>7-9 p Boy Scouts</i>	18 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:15p Lent Soup Supper 7 PM Lent Service	19 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells <i>7:30p Choir</i>	20 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i>	21
22 Lent 5 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Now the Feast Service <i>Fellowship Host-Property Comm.</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch <i>1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA</i>	23 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>7:00p AA</i>	24 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 9:30AM Spring Clean Up <i>7-9 p Boy Scouts</i>	25 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:15p Lent Soup Supper 7 PM Lent Service	26 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells <i>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</i>	27 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> 9:30AM Spring Clean Up	28
29 PALM SUNDAY! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Christian Response</i> <i>1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA</i>	30 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>7:00p AA</i>	31 <i>9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</i> <i>7-9 p Boy Scouts</i>				