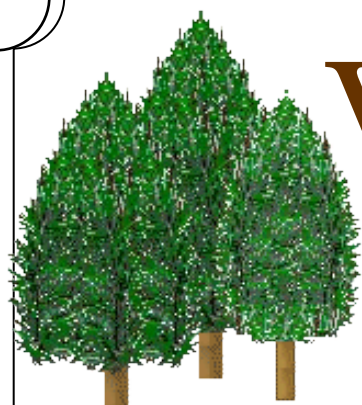
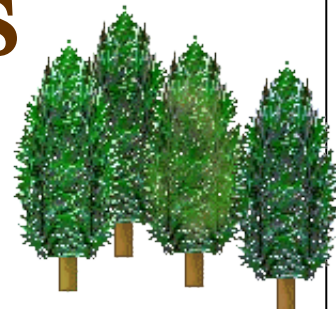




Wooden Cross Newsletter

June, 2026



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

Covered With Pools of Water

Happy are those whose strength is in (The Lord),
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the valley of Baca,
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

Psalm 84:5-6

Over the last few weeks, I have been slowly going through the garage, dragging the sprinklers and hoses out into the yard. It appears that the rainy season is ending, and summer drought is on our doorstep. It is time to take over the task of keeping our bushes, and flowers, and lawns alive where nature is unable to finish the job, even if the water bill starts to soar.

Water, at the right time of year, and in the right location, is central to the wellbeing of all living things. That is why, even for those of us who no longer depend upon rains to put food on our table, the morning weather report dominates our thoughts. Worrying about where the water of our lives will come from is a mental exercise that is baked into our DNA.

During the Season of Lent, those who gathered for soup and conversation on Wednesday nights, looked at all the ways the Bible uses the basic elements of nature: wind, light, water, fire, and dry land; as symbols for God's active presence in our lives. We talked about how "water," both in a literal sense, and as a metaphor, helps the People of God survive in the "deserts" of their lives.

The water of Baptism is the very foundation upon which we build our life of faith. Through this water, we

are born into the Body of Christ. Through this water, we are daily nurtured and enriched for life, our thirst for God is quenched. Through this water, we are united with the death and resurrection of Christ. And at the end of life, we travel into and through this water, safely into the eternal presence of God.

Psalm 84 is a review of all of the "ways" that God provides for the people living in exile to get back home to Jerusalem (and Mt. Zion, the site of the Temple). In verses 5 and 6, the desert place is referred to as "the valley of Baca," which literally means, "the valley of tears." The psalmist reminds us, in our most troubling times, moments when we are consumed by sadness, to remember to whom we belong, and where our help can be found. The desert floor breaks open with underground springs, quenching our thirst. Morning rains leave behind pools of water that can be accessed throughout the day.

Pastor's Message	1 & 3
Bible Study	2
Transition Team	3
Quilting	3
Special Congregation Meeting	4
Special Music	4
June Calendar	5



- 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

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** Pastor Jim will lead **Adult Bible Study**. 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.

2026 Local Giving Budget
Weekly Average Goal: \$2,917

APR	Week 1:	\$8,554
	Week 2:	\$2,866
	Week 3:	\$1,531
	Week 4:	<u>\$7,105</u>
		\$20,056

Weekly Average: \$5,014

MAY	Week 1:	\$6,449
	Week 2:	\$4,901
	Week 3:	\$1,231
	Week 4:	\$1,804
	Week 5:	<u>\$355</u>
		\$14,740

Weekly Average: \$2,948

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..... www.WeAreWoodenCross.org

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

Pastor Email jameskruse814@gmail.com

Pastor Jim Kruse

Secretary / Bookkeeper Tricia Gensman

Music Director / Organist Seung Lee

Altar Guild Coordinator Jone Vrhel

TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team met recently with guest Peggy Reiber, former Church Council President, to continue discussions regarding future pastoral leadership at Wooden Cross. Peggy shared insights from the congregational gatherings she led during Fellowship Hour earlier this year, where members were invited to share hopes, concerns, and thoughts about the future of pastoral leadership. The team reviewed and discussed the many comments gathered during those meetings and expressed gratitude to Peggy for her leadership and foresight in beginning these important conversations several months ago.

The team also continued its study of "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going" by Susan Beaumont, with Emil providing a summary and discussion of Chapter 4 focused on discernment. Looking ahead, the Transition Team will continue preparing for upcoming conversations with Church Council regarding guiding principles, inclusivity, and future pastoral staffing considerations. Upcoming meetings include a June 15 discussion to prepare questions for Council, followed by a joint meeting with Council on June 28 after worship. The team will also continue meeting by Zoom on June 29 and July 13.

GRACE & GIGGLES

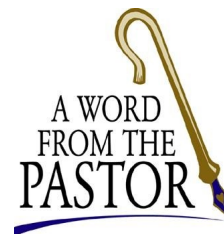
Exercise
Daily.....



PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

During the dry summer months ahead, I encourage you to use every encounter with water to remember your baptism and give thanks for the refreshing "pools" that populate your life during the day. Every shower you take, every hose you drag, every vegetable you wash, every ice-cooled beverage you drink, is a "pool" of refreshment left behind by the "early rains" of baptism.

Enjoy the day.



We give thanks for fathers who build with love, lead with strength, and encourage with care.



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

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Our Constitution requires that any unbudgeted expenses in excess of \$5000 needs to be approved by the congregation. Accordingly, there are three projects that must be addressed:

- ▶ Recent Interior Painting
- ▶ Fire Panel Upgrade
- ▶ Culvert Replacement Project

Council has scheduled a Special Congregation meeting for **Sunday, June 28**, after service. Please plan on attending service and remaining after for this meeting. Council would like to have as many members as possible attend so we can fully explain the issues and answer any questions you may have.

ALTER GUILD

Altar Guild Opportunity. Creative minds and willing hands are needed and invited to work with the Altar Guild Coordinator as we change liturgical seasons and identify scripture themes through the yearly lectionary schedule. This committee will work on the altar and entrance table decorations, look for opportunities for new banners or paraments, and watch for needed repairs to the banners we currently own. The opportunities can be endless and offer an outlet for our creative abilities. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Jone Vrhel.



ONLINE WORSHIP



Wooden Cross church services are available on a YouTube Live Stream 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Wooden Cross members and friends are inviting to share their talents as musicians, vocalists and performers during the worship services throughout the Summer months..



If you play an instrument, sing or dance, please sign up on the narthex table. Both soloists and groups are welcomed and encouraged.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to join us after the *Coffee Time* 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 first bulletin board. Thank you.



Wooden Cross June News, 2026

2026

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	2 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Scouts #422	3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary)	4 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 5:15-7:00p Facility Use: Bhadra Recovery (labyrinth)	5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	6
7 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Property Committee</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	8 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Scouts #422	10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 12:30-2:30p Acorn Piano Recital (Sanctuary)	13 11-5pm Facility Use: J. Farley Piano Recital (Sanctuary)
14 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Quilters</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 5:00p Christian Connection Comm. Mtg. JULY Article Due!	15 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	16 9-12:30 Acorn Montessori (Last Day of School) 7-9 p Scouts #422	17 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30p Worship Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	18 11:00-3:00 Quilters	19	20 10:00-4:00 Woodinville Garden Tour
21 <i>Father's Day!</i> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Christian Connection</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	22 7:00p AA	23 7-9 p Scouts #422	24 10:00a Adult Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-</i>	29 7:00p AA	30 7-9 p Scouts #422				