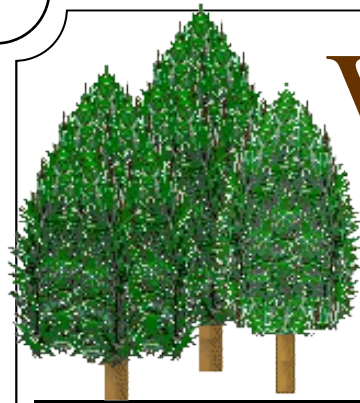
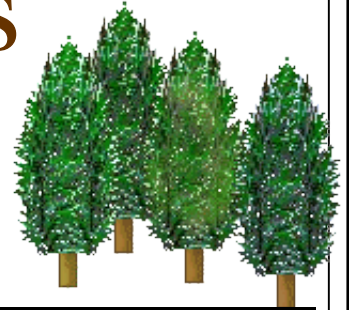




Wooden Cross Newsletter

August, 2026



WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

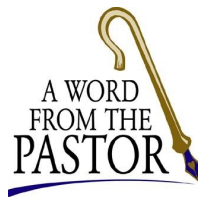
A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"August is for Weddings"

I know that tradition holds that June is the most romantic month of the year for a wedding. But it has been my experience since moving into the Seattle area 30 years ago that we prefer August over June. Maybe it is because a wedding in August gives people a couple more months to get things ready. Or maybe it is because many of us are heading out hiking and camping, boating and fishing, or shaping up the landscaping around the house at the first chance we get. But mostly I think people choose August over June because they think it will be their best chance to hold a beautiful outdoor ceremony surrounded by nature.

Of course, it doesn't always work out that way we dream it will. Last August I officiated for a wedding overlooking the beach; it started raining just when the bridal procession was walking through the center of the assembly. A couple of Augusts earlier, it was a garden wedding; the blazing sun sent temperatures into the 90's with no shade trees in sight. I've even been involved in an August wedding at a marina; the mother of the bride took a dropping from a sea gull in her hair at the most solemn moment.

And yet, around here anyway, we go on undeterred, determined to keep August as the most romantic month for weddings. So it might be a good time to remember that the Bible freely uses romantic language to highlight the intimacy of the relationship between God and the people of God.



Those who are in worship on August 9th will hear these words read from Psalm 85:

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

-Psalm 85:10-11

The psalmist is using romantic love language here. The people that God has made "spring up from the ground" (the elements of creation) and "look to the sky" for God's "righteousness." God offers the gift of "stead love" and "peace." The "faithfulness" of both parties connects them together. And the relationship is sealed with a "kiss."

I wonder if we are as comfortable with this kind of talk as we ought to be. Most of us understand the joy of knowing, and being known by, another person so well that we want them to always be a part of our lives, both in good times and in difficult times. But most of us also understand that marriage can get challenging. The partnership can get uneven, one party carrying most of

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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

GRACE & GIGGLES

Q: What kind of lights did Noah install on the Ark?



A: Flood lights

GAME NIGHT IS BACK!

Join us on **Friday, August 14, at 6:00 p.m.** for an evening of laughter, friendly competition, and great fellowship! Whether you're a card shark, a board game champion, or just looking to enjoy good company, there's a seat at the table for you. Bring your favorite game (if you'd like), invite a friend, and come ready for a fun-filled evening. We hope to see you there!



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.



CONNECT — GROW — SERVE



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



**STEWARDS
OF GOD'S LOVE**

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

JUNE Week 1: \$2,189
 Week 2: \$7,021
 Week 3: \$2,625
 Week 4: \$3,514

\$15,349

Weekly Average: \$3,837

JULY Week 1: \$1,884
 Week 2: \$8,111
 Week 3: \$2,586
 Week 4: \$1,406

\$13,987

Weekly Average: \$3,496

Thank you!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

the load. The partner can become a struggle to understand and be understood. Communication takes a lot of effort. The partnership can break down and we need to go through an intense time of healing.

Do we really want to think about our relationship with God in this way?

This is the invitation to use the slower, gentler, easy-going days of the end of the summer to be open up to the idea of God as the "Great Lover," in all the fullness that that entails. Like the most intimate relationship in your life, let God in on every activity, every inclination, every hope for your future. "To love and to cherish, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health." And then add, "in life and in death."

How about that?

FRESH SUMMER FRUIT OPPORTUNITY

Calhoun Family CSA – Fresh Fruit Season is Here!

Enjoy fresh, locally grown fruit this summer through the Calhoun Family CSA! Choose from small or large weekly fruit boxes featuring four varieties of seasonal fruit, available for pickup every Thursday.

Important Dates:

July 16 – September 3: Weekly CSA fruit boxes

Apple boxes: Coming later this season (TBD)

Pickup: Thursdays, 6:00–8:00 p.m.



Sign up for the full season or purchase boxes week-by-week with flexible options to fit your schedule. For more information or to sign up, visit www.calhounfamilycsa.com or visit their Facebook page [Calhoun Family—CSA](#).

SPECIAL MUSIC

Again, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has shared their musical talents during our Summer Special Music Sundays. Whether you sang, played an instrument, or participated in another way, your gifts have enriched our worship and been a blessing to our congregation. Thank you for sharing your time and talents and helping make our summer services so meaningful.



While we're continuing to enjoy Summer Special Music throughout August, we're also looking ahead to the return of our choir! Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 3, at 7:30 p.m. If you've been thinking about joining, we'd love to welcome you. Whether you're a longtime choir member or have never sung with the choir before, there's a place for you. Come



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



On Sunday, **September 13**, congregations of the ELCA will join together for the annual day of service, "God's work. Our hands." This day continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Looking for inspiration? You can:

- Cleaned parks, beaches and roadways.
- Donated food to shelters and pantries.
- Assembled backpacks and hygiene kits.
- Repair homes and community centers.
- Written letters to military members & first responders.
- Harvested produce for food pantries.
- Sewn quilts and knitted blankets.
- Prepared meals for volunteers.
- Visited homebound members.
- Performed random acts of kindness.

This year we are especially mindful of the challenges faced by our Lutheran social service organizations and other faith-based and human service organizations due to the reduction in crease in cost of goods. We encourage you to consider service opportunities with these agencies.

"God's work. Our hands." is an extension of the work you do every day to make your community a better place. Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE

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 in August** Pr. Jim will lead **Adult Bible Study** from **10:00-11:30 AM**. You are welcome to join us! Bring a willing heart. We will till the soil. God brings the growth.

HELP FEED OUR NEIGHBORS

Christian Response is inviting our Wooden Cross family to help meet a growing need in our community by supporting our local food bank. From **July 12 through September 1**, we will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations. Please place food donations in the Food Bank collection box at church. If you would like to make a financial contribution, place cash or a check in an envelope marked "Food Bank" and place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Every donation, large or small, helps provide nourishment and hope to our neighbors in need. Thank you for your generosity and for being Christ's hands and feet in our community!

Suggested Items—

- Baby Wipes (**Priority need**)
- Toilet Paper (**Priority need**)
- Diapers
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Soups
- Canned Vegetables
- Rice (1-2 pound bags)
- Pasta, Pasta Sauce
- Cereal, Canned Fruits,
- Paper Towels
- Canned Meals (ravioli, beefaroni)
- Pancake Mix (regular size boxes/bags)
- Personal Hygiene products
- Cleaning Supplies
- Baby Food/Formula



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!

Wooden Cross August News, 2026

2026

August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Property Committee</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	3 7:00p AA	4 7-9p Scouts #422	5 10:00a Adult Bible Study Church Office Closed	6 Church Office Closed	7	1 8
9 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Quilters</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	10 10:00a Transition Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00p AA	11 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7-9p Scouts #422	12 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7:00P CHURCH	13 11:00-3:00 Quilters 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	14 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	15
16 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Christian Connection</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	17 7:00p AA	18 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7-9p Scouts #422	19 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	20 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	21 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	22
23 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-Church Council</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch SEP NEWS Article Due!	24 10:00a Transition Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00p AA	25 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7-9p Scouts #422	26 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	27 11:00-3:00 Quilters 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	28 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	29
30 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Fellowship Host-</i> 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	31 7:00p AA					