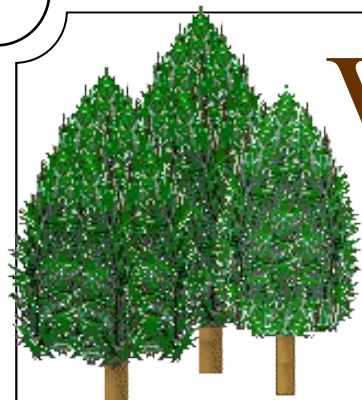
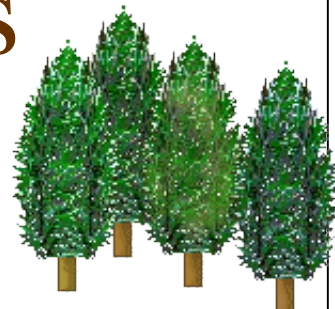




Wooden Cross Newsletter

July, 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

Quiet Explosions

[The Lord said to Elijah], "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he ... went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him.

-1 Kings 19:11-13b

When I was a young child the only family ritual we had for celebrating Independence Day was to pull the car out of the garage just as the sun was going down and just before bedtime. My dad would park the car in the middle of our cul-de-sac, and my brothers and sister and I would climb on the hood and trunk and wait for the fireworks show to begin.

The fireworks could be seen in the direction of Folsom Field, the football home of the University of Colorado Buffaloes, a mile away from our family home. The CU campus was high at the top of the hill, and our home was down in the valley. A grassy field stood between our subdivision and Boulder Creek. As children, we did not know that, to see the full show, you had to buy a ticket to get into the stadium. And that the price of admission also bought you access to periodic displays on the ground. All we knew was the excitement of anticipating the sky lighting up with amazing colors and then waiting for the sound of the explosion to catch up

to the visual display. This was great fun and a great memory.

The whole show lasted about an hour, but the fireworks did not fill up the sky the whole time. The exhibition was punctuated by several long periods of silence, probably about 10 minutes or so. "Is it over?" we would ask the grownups. "Not yet. Just wait!" And so we did.

These fireworks shows from my childhood are on my mind as we celebrate 250 years of independence as a nation. The upcoming July 4th exhibitions will be prevalent, the explosions will be bright and beautiful, the noise deafening. It will be fun to get caught up in the excitement of it all. But it is the long periods of silence from my childhood that are most on my mind at the moment.

The ancient prophet Elijah was told to wait and watch for a word from God. And so he did. He watched and waited through a violent windstorm. He watched and waited through an earthshattering quake. And he watched and waited as fire consumed the landscape. These were marvelous displays, but they were not the

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Doug Pearman..... President
 Blaine Wastell..... Vice President
 Peter Marschalk Secretary/Treasurer
 Art HammersbergCouncil Member
 Nancy Van DalsemCouncil Member
 Carolyn GrossCouncil Member

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.



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

LET'S RALLY!!

Rally Sunday Coming This Fall!

Mark your calendars for Rally Sunday on September 1th at 11am! Plans are underway for a special day of fellowship, food, and connection as we celebrate the many ministries and community groups that make Wooden Cross such a vibrant place. More details will be coming soon, so stay tuned, we think you're going to love what is being planned!



GRACE & GIGGLES

Why do Lutherans always bring a ladder to church?

Because they heard the service was going to be high liturgy.



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

MAY	Week 1:	\$6,449
	Week 2:	\$4,901
	Week 3:	\$1,231
	Week 4:	\$1,804
	Week 5:	<u>\$1,004</u>
		\$15,391
	Weekly Average:	\$3,078

JUNE	Week 1:	\$2,189
	Week 2:	\$7,021
	Week 3:	\$2,625
	Week 4:	<u>\$3,514</u>
		\$15,349
	Weekly Average:	\$3,837

Thank you!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

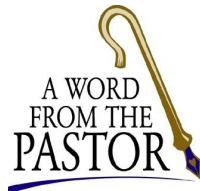
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moments when God was present. It was "the sound of sheer silence," a "still small voice," that touched his heart and moved him to act.

History has documented the moments of courage, of victory, of powerful social and political movements of the past 250 years that have served to protect and advance the cause of independence. But history cannot document all the times that "the sound of sheer silence" has saved us from ourselves and preserved American freedom.

Go ahead and have some fun this month. Show pride for how far we have come as a nation. But also be grateful for the quiet moments when God has been present in the lives of simple folks struggling to get it right. And be aware of how far we still have to go to extend freedom to everyone.

Good Cheer,
Pastor Jim



TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team recently held its first meeting with the Church Council to share the progress being made as they prepare Wooden Cross's Ministry Site Profile (MSP), an important step in the pastoral call process.

Together, they discussed who Wooden Cross is as a congregation, its mission, and its hopes for the future. The conversation highlighted Wooden Cross's strong foundation as a Christ-centered, Bible-based congregation with a heart for serving others and welcoming a variety of perspectives.

The team also explored important questions about the future, including the congregation's vision for growth, pastoral leadership, financial sustainability, and how Wooden Cross can best use its resources to serve both the congregation and the surrounding community.

As next steps, the Transition Team will continue gathering information, including a congregational survey, and will meet again with the Church Council as they prayerfully discern God's direction for Wooden Cross and continue moving forward in the pastoral call process.

Please continue to keep the Transition Team, Church Council, and the congregation in your prayers as they seek God's guidance for the future of Wooden Cross.

Next meetings:

July 13th Transition Team Evening ZOOM
July 27th Transition Team ZOOM 10am



SPECIAL MUSIC

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to share their musical talents during our Summer Special Music Sundays. We are grateful for your gifts and for helping make our worship services throughout the summer months, so meaningful and vibrant.



The choir will begin practicing on September 3rd at 7:30. Please come and join this joyful, harmonized group, we would love to have you!

GAME NIGHT

Game Night Was a Success!

Our first Game Night was a great success, with 12 members gathering for an evening of fellowship, laughter, snacks, and friendly competition. Everyone brought treats to share and favorite games to play, creating a fun and welcoming atmosphere. We were also delighted to welcome Carroll Whipple as our guest.



Don't miss the next one! Another Game Night is planned for **August 14** at 6:00pm. Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and fellowship with your Wooden Cross family. We hope to see you there!

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

Wooden Cross July News, 2026

2026

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 10:00a Adult Bible Study	2	3	4  INDEPENDENCE Day Independence Day! Holiday.
5 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Church Council 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	6 7:00p AA	7 7-9 p Scouts #422	8 10:00a Adult Bible Study 7:00p Council Meeting	9	10	11
12 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Christian Response 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	13 10:00a transition Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00p AA	14 7-9 p Scouts #422	15 10:00a Adult Bible Study	16 11:00-3:00 Quilters	17	18
19 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host- 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA AUG NEWS Article Due!	20 7:00p AA	21 7-9 p Scouts #422	22 No Adult Bible Study	23 Office Closed	24 5:30p Christian Connection Comm. Mtg.	25
26 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Worship Committee 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	27 10:00a transition Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00p AA	28 7-9 p Scouts #422	29 10:00a Adult Bible Study	30 11:00-3:00 Quilters	31	