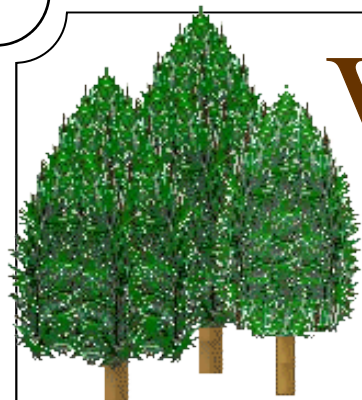
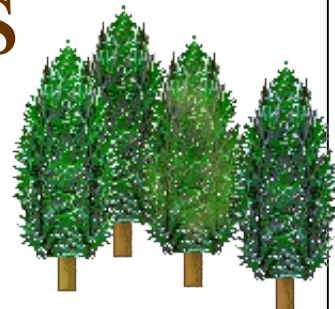




Wooden Cross Newsletter

October, 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

Getting There

I went to the Apple Cup this year. It was not what it used to be. This year it was the first game of the 2026 Huskies football season and not the last. And the game was played on a Sunday afternoon instead of a Saturday afternoon or Friday night. And UW and WSU are now in different conferences. Things have changed.

Having grown up in the shadow of Folsom Field on the University of Colorado campus and hearing the game on the radio every Saturday afternoon while doing chores or playing in the backyard, college football became part of the fabric of my life. I think I keep going to Husky games because life makes more sense when I do, even though things have changed.

The entrance lines are long and creep forward ever so slowly. Timeouts are lengthy and frequent, so the people watching on TV can get their allotment of advertisements. The hot dogs are expensive and of an inconsistently quality. The people who bought the seats in front of me seem to always be standing when I want to sit, blocking my view of the field. But the biggest challenge, and the biggest change over the years, has been getting to the game in the first place.

When I first started going to Husky games,



I drove my car. I could usually find parking on the street within a 20-minute walk to the stadium and still avoid the heaviest traffic jams. When I moved to the “eastside” and had to battle crossing the 520 Bridge, I started taking Sound Transit Express back and forth. But when they closed Montlake Blvd ramp bus stop for construction, and Route 545 skipped the campus and kept right on going into downtown, I shifted to the prearranged shuttle buses that left from South Kirkland Park and Ride. This year they discontinued the shuttle buses and I’m going to be taking Light Rail Line #2.

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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

GIGGLES & GRACE

Why did the tree laugh?

It heard an acorn-y joke.



*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

AUG	Week 1:	\$1,691
	Week 2:	\$2,024
	Week 3:	\$7,201
	Week 4:	\$1,626
	Week 5:	\$6,805
		\$19,340
	Weekly Average:	\$3,869

SEPT	Week 1:	\$1,691
	Week 2:	\$2,024
	Week 3:	\$2,329
	Week 4:	*Updating Oct5th
		*\$6,044
	Weekly Average:	*\$2,015

Wooden Cross October News, 2026

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.

A CHANGE TO OUR WEEKLY EMAIL REMINDERS — You may have noticed a slight change in our weekly reminders and special announcement emails. With our updated church website, we now have access to a free email program called EmailOctopus, which helps streamline these email messages. You may see them coming from admin@wearewoodencross.org—please know they are not spam or junk mail.

If you don't receive a weekly email, please check your spam/junk folder and mark it as "Not Junk." If you still don't receive the emails, please contact Tricia in the church office. Thank you for your patience as we make this transition!



EmailOctopus



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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

According to the timeline across the bottom of the bulletin board in the entrance, we have entered the last phase before forming a separate Call Committee. Phase III involves taking what the Transition Team has learned so far about the history of the congregation, and the nature of the community around us, and working with the congregation to identify what God is calling Wooden Cross Lutheran Church to be about going forward.

Most of us, either early in life, or later, have enough experience living within a church community that it has become part of the fabric of our lives. Life makes more sense when we stay engaged than it would if we stopped. But the changes in our world and our personal priorities are challenging. We know the benefits of living within a Christian Community. But we also know that the routes to participation are changing.

The work Phase III is critical to the future of the congregation. It is not so much about what we want to be. It is more about how are we going to get there.

Good Cheer,
Pastor Jim

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Come with family, friends and neighbors and join us for **Trunk-or-Treat** in the Wooden Cross parking lot, on **Saturday, October, 31**, from **5:30 to 7:00 PM**.



The Christian Connection Committee is inviting Wooden Cross folks to decorate the trunks of their cars and come to the church with candy for our community trick-or-treaters. Our goal is to have 10 "trunks" on display. Decorations might include: lights, spooky music, spider webs, corn stalks, etc. Get creative. Feel free to wear a costume! If you'd like to participate, please sign up at the entrance table.

This is a great way to meet to our neighbors! Hot soup and cider will be provided for our participants.

CONGREGATION SURVEY RESULTS

The Transition Team has completed its initial review of the recent Congregational Survey. You have been sent an email with the results, however, If you would prefer a paper copy, they are now available on the bulletin table please stop by and pick one up during church hours.

Following worship on Sunday, October 4, Pastor Erik Samuelson will lead us in a conversation about the survey results, including the five qualities we most desire in a future pastor. Please take some time to read through the results and bring any questions or thoughts you may have to our discussion.

We hope you will join us for this important conversation as we continue our journey toward calling our next pastor.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team met to review the results of the recent Congregational Survey and discuss next steps in the process of preparing for our pastoral search. The team was encouraged by the thoughtful feedback received and is now working to compile and better understand the responses.

The team discussed several areas where the survey responses differed from the Transition Team and Council's perspectives, including clearly defined goals, preferences for tried-and-true ideas, training for ministry within the congregation, and a focus on skills and action. These differences provide helpful opportunities for further conversation and clarification, particularly around communication and how we work together as a community.

The Transition Team has also begun work on the **Ministry Site Profile (MSP)**, an important step in our pastoral call process. Upcoming discussions will focus on our congregation's characteristics, vision, programs, goals, strengths, and hopes for the future.

Full Transition Team meeting minutes are available on the Transition Team bulletin board.

The Transition Team will meet again on Monday, October 12, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

G O D ' S W O R K . O U R H A N D S .

J O I N U S F O R G O D ' S
W O R K . O U R H A N D S .
S U N D A Y !

We are excited to invite the entire congregation to participate in **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, October 11th**—a special day to celebrate the many ways God is at work through our church and its people.

Each of our church committees will offer a brief presentation sharing their mission, the work they do, and the ways they serve our congregation and community. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the ministries of our church and discover where your gifts, interests, and time might make a difference.



We encourage everyone to listen, ask questions, and consider how you might become involved. Whether you have a little time to share or are looking for a new way to serve, there is a place for everyone. Many hands make God's work possible!

Following the service, please join us for fellowship. Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and the opportunity to connect with committee members and learn more about ways to volunteer.

Come, celebrate the work we are already doing together, and discover new ways to put your faith into action!

S T E W A R D S H I P
K I C K O F F !

Grateful Hearts, Generous Lives

On **Sunday, October 11**, we will kick off our 2027 Stewardship Season, continuing through December 2. Stewardship is about more than our financial gifts, it is about recognizing all that God has entrusted to us and considering how we can share our time, talents, and resources in service to God and our community.

As we look toward the coming year, we invite everyone at Wooden Cross to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be part of our shared ministry. Together, our gifts, large and small, help Wooden Cross remain a place of worship, fellowship, service, and welcome.



Stewardship
a way of life

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
— 1 Peter 4:10

H O L I D A Y G I F T C A R D
C O L L E C T I O N

Christian Response Committee will begin a holiday collection of gift cards, and monetary donations on October 15 and continue thru December 1. Recipients will be Acres of Diamonds and Hope Link.



Gift cards to Safeway, Fred Meyers and Amazon are needed for parents to purchase gifts for their families for the holidays. Donors will be able to choose where they would like their donations to go. If you have questions about this gift card collection please contact - Sandra Booren or Peg Skiftenes.

A L L S A I N T S D A Y
R E E M B R A C E

On All Saints Day, November 1st, we will remember those we love who have passed away. If you have a close friend or family member you would like remembered during the service, please provide their name to the church office by October 19th.

2026

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Church Office Closed 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells	2 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	3
4 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Christian Connection 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9p Scouts #422	7 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 5:00-9:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary)	8 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	10
11 Stewardship Kickoff! God's Work Our Hands/Rally Sunday 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Church Council Temple Talk #1 Special Congregational Meeting 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Transition Team Meeting (Zoom) 7:00p AA	13 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9p Scouts #422	14 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	15 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 Acorn Parent Conferences	17
18 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Christian Response LWR Quilt Display 11:30-3:00 Quilting 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA November Newsletter Articles Due!	19 Acorn Parent Confer- ences 7:00p AA	20 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9p Scouts #422	21 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30p Worship Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	22 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	23 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	24
25 Reformation Sunday LWR Quilt Blessing 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Quilters Temple Talk #2 11:30-3:00 LWR Packing 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	26 9-2:45 Acorn Mon- tessori 10:00a Transition Team Meet- ing (Zoom) 7:00p AA	27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Pumpkin Carving (Fellowship Hall) 7-9p Scouts #422	28 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study	29 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Pumpkin Carving 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	30 No Acorn Montessori Teach Professional Day	31 5:30-7:00 PM Trunk Or Treat

