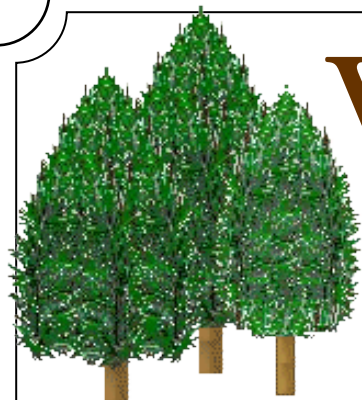
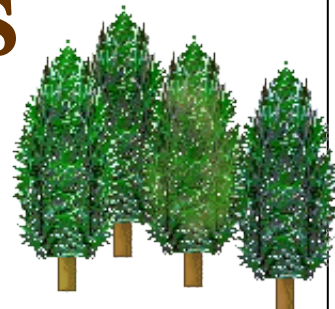




Wooden Cross Newsletter

September, 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

As a Deer Longs for Streams

As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul
longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

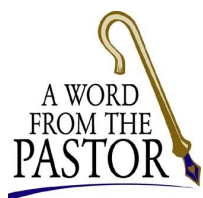
When shall I come and behold the face of God?

Psalms 42:1-2

It has been a long, dry summer all around the Northern Hemisphere. News of wildfires, floods, and triple-digit temperatures have dominated the daily reports. Finding shelter and enduring the sauna-like conditions has been the daily routine for many people.

Even though the summer has been relatively pleasant in the Pacific Northwest, a shortage of snowmelt from the mountains and the lack of measurable rain has affected us here too. The retention pond across the street from my house was overflowing in March. Today it is dry, and six-foot tall reeds have sprung up from its floor. And the sprinklers have been watering the lawn two or three times a week for a month or more.

I've even noticed this week that the deer born in March and April are coming closer and closer to our neighborhood, risking their lives to cross the busy thoroughfare. This young guy ran across the road from the dry retention pond last week and wandered through our back yard, heading for the creek down below.



At the beginning of Psalm 42, the Psalmist reminds us that the drive to quench our thirst from nature's cool running streams is universal to all of God's creation. As is our thirst to hear God's promise of forgiveness, guidance and comfort.

The long, dry "summers" of our lives can take on many forms. The discovery, diagnosis, and treatment of physical maladies can take months and even years to endure. It takes lots of time and attention to recover from the sadness of broken relationships and come back to the regular routines of life. Trusting God's presence to provide what we need in the midst of a financial setback takes focus and discipline. It is not easy. Like the deer searching for a cooling stream to quench their thirst, we are searching to drink anew from the cooling word's of God's love.

Most congregations view the end of summer, and the beginning a new school year, as the best time to revisit the longing we all have to drink from God's

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Doug PearmanPresident
 Blaine WastellVice President
 Peter Marschalk.....Secretary/Treasurer
 Art Hammersberg..... Council Member
 Nancy Van Dalsem..... Council Member
 Carolyn Gross..... Council Member
 Nancy Strand Council Member

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 7th**, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 8th.

As we mark this holiday, we give thanks for the work we do, the gifts and talents we share, and the many ways our efforts contribute to our families, our community, and one another.



Wishing you a safe and meaningful Labor Day!



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

JULY	Week 1:	\$1,884
	Week 2:	\$8,111
	Week 3:	\$2,586
	Week 4:	<u>\$1,406</u>
		\$13,987
	Weekly Average:	\$3,496

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

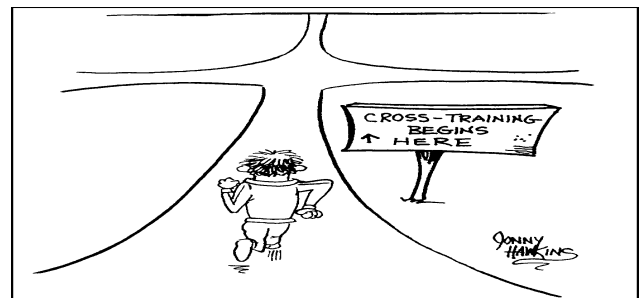
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY



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.

GIGGLES & GRACE



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

presence. We are sustained by gathering with fellow believers in Christ and hearing God's promises in scripture, liturgy, preaching, music and corporate prayer. Listen to the voice of your soul crying out this month, "When shall I come and behold the face of God?"

Good Cheer,
Pastor Jim

GAME NIGHT IS BACK!

Game on! Join us on **Friday, September 18th, at 6:00 p.m.** for an evening of games, laughter, and good fellowship. Whether you're ready to deal yourself in, roll the dice, or simply play it by ear, there's a place for you at the table! Bring a favorite game, invite a friend, and come ready to have a little fun. No need to worry about keeping score, just come enjoy the evening and make some good memories along the way! We hope to see you there—it's sure to be a winning evening!



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY!

**JOIN US FOR
GOD'S WORK.
OUR HANDS.
SUNDAY!**

We are excited to invite the entire congregation to participate in **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday**—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!

God's work. Our hands. Together, we can make a difference.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

WOMEN'S 2026 FALL RETREAT



Women of the NW WA Synod are invited to the 2026 Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 3, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett. This year's theme is "Seek Inspiration," presented by Pastor Kacey Hahn of St. Matthew's

Lutheran Church in Renton. The \$45 donation includes lunch, snacks, activities, and worship. Registration and payment are due by September 18th. For registration or questions, contact Millie Fosberg at 360-941-4742 or nwwaswopresident@gmail.com. Come join women from across our Synod for a day of faith, fellowship, and inspiration!

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 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.



CONSIDER SHARING YOUR VOICE!

It's time to make some music! And the Wooden Cross Choir is ready to start singing again! Organist and Music Director, Seung Lee will lead the choir. Why not add more music to your life and consider joining the choir! All voices welcome!



The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, beginning September 3rd.

HELPING FEED OUR NEIGHBORS

A heartfelt thank you from the Christian Response Committee to our Wooden Cross family for your generous support of our local food bank! Through your gifts of food donations you have helped provide nourishment and hope to our neighbors in need.



Your generosity is a beautiful reminder of what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in our community. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference. Thank you for helping us care for our neighbors!

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/
The Broadview Center	https://thebroadviewcenter.com/
Camp Lutherwood	http://www.camlutherwood.org/
Compass Housing Alliance	https://www.compasshousingalliance.org/
Earth Ministry	https://earthministry.org/
Habitat for Humanity	https://www.habitat.org/
Holden Village	http://www.holdenvillage.org/
Hopelink Food Bank	https://www.hopelink.org/
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

September

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7-9p Scouts #422	2 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori First Day of School 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsals Begin	4 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	5
6 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host- 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	7 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed.  7:00p AA	8 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7-9p Scouts #422	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-9:00 Theatre Group	12
13 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host- Christian Response 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	14 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	15 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9p Scouts #422	16 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30p Worship Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	17 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	18 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:00p Game Night 	19
20 0:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host-Worship Committee 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA OCT NEWS Articles Due Today!	21 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	22 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9p Scouts #422	23 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study	24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:15-5:15p Hand Bells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	25 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	26
27 10:00 Worship Service Fellowship Host- Property Committee 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	28 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Church Office Closed 7:00p AA	29 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Church Office Closed 7-9p Scouts #422	30 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study Church Office Closed			