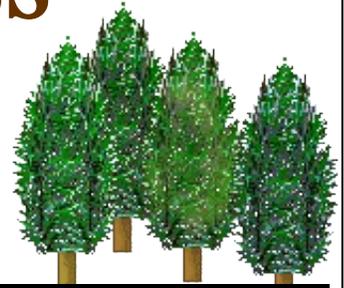


Wooden Cross Newsletter



January, 2021

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 OUR PASTOR

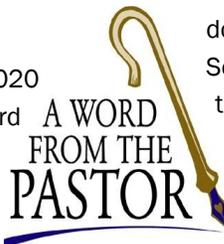
“Caught in the Crossroads”

Feeling caught somewhere between “2020 has #@&^%#@!!!!” and “Rejoice in the Lord Always?”

I suspect you might be as I know with certainty that I am caught in the uncertain land between these two certainties. 2020 has been hard for many... brutal to others... and at minimum challenging for all it seems to me. And while this is the “foundational truth” for most of this last year we are never without that still small voice that whispers of the Goodness of God and that we can rejoice in God’s presence and activity in the world and in our lives. These two realities vie for our attention and if the truism about the whole “feeding the beasts” tells us anything true at all is that the perspective we “feed” is very likely the one that will flourish and come to dominate in our vision.

So yes it is absolutely fair to say that 2020 has stunk in so many ways. I would encourage you to couch that acknowledgment in prayer and keep handing it over to God and laying it at the feet of Jesus who upon a cross once took all that hard and brutal and challenging upon himself that we might indeed have life and therefore truly have cause to REJOICE.

Friends, it is really hard sometimes to rejoice in the face of the fears and anxieties in our lives. The Psalms (23rd in particular) would remind us of this truth in acknowledging God setting a table in the PRESENCE of one’s enemies. This is comfort and solace in the midst of the conflict... this is for me an insight into what it means to seek to rejoice “always”... it can be hard and I



do not pretend otherwise nor say this blithely or lightly. Sometimes the choice to rejoice is emotionally akin to the call to “go over the top” we hear from history of those in World War I called to rush from the safety of the trench to face the hail of uncertainty (and even likely advent of demise). There is fear and there is anxiety and yet much like those brave souls... we go anyway. So to rejoice is not something we do simply because we are happy. It is something we choose even in the throws of uncertainty and perhaps too at times even in the shadow of the valley of death.

It becomes our choice to remain in the light and bear witness to it yet shining.

(Sounds kind of like a “light” that “shines in the darkness” that “the darkness cannot overcome” doesn’t it?)

continued on page 4



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- Jerry Booren President
- Peter Marschalk..... Vice President
- Nancy Hansen..... Secretary
- Linda Rubel Treasurer
- Jim Hampton Council Member
- Sue Viebrock Council Member
- Scott Kimball..... Council Member
- Betty Scott..... Council Member
- Art Hammersberg..... Council Member
- Deb Schuldt..... Council Member

**W E D N E S D A Y
B I B L E S T U D Y**



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.

† H E A L T H C O N C E R N S †

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.

2020 Stewardship



Let's accept our freedom to give generously, and our responsibility to be good stewards of all God's gifts.

2020 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,847

NOV	Week 1:	\$2,710	
	Week 2:	\$2,315	
	Week 3:	\$4,691	
	Week 4:	\$2,388	
	Week 5:	<u>\$3,049</u>	
		\$15,153	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,031
DEC	Week 1:	\$5,460	
	Week 2:	\$2,305	
	Week 3:	<u>\$2,800</u>	
		\$10,565	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,522

Thank you!



WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

17401 198th Avenue NE
Woodinville, Washington 98077
(corner of 198th and Woodinville/Duvall Road)

Church **425-788-3626**
Office Hours **MON-THU, 7:30 AM—3:00 PM**
Church Email **woodencrosslc@gmail.com**
Pastor Office Hours **T-Th, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM; Fri. by Appointment**
Pastor Email **revericg@hotmail.com**
Website **www.WeAreWoodenCross.org**

Community Prayer **9:00 AM**
Sunday Worship **10:00 AM**

Pastor Eric Griffith
Secretary / Bookkeeper Kathy Corneloup
Organist Seung Lee
Interim Choir Director Seung Lee
Ensemble Band Ensemble Musicians
Altar Guild Sherry Kimball

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

By Constitution the Church Council announces this first public notice of Wooden Cross' Annual Meeting.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 24, 2021**. It will be a simultaneous live and virtual meeting.. This will give options for all members to participate, listen to committee leader reports, pastor message, vote on the 2021 Budget, and elect the new council and committee leadership.

We encourage you to attend this important annual event. This is our family remembrance and celebration time! You are missed when not present.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting is prepared by the Executive Committee (Officers) and the Church Council, in accordance with the Constitution. The agenda shall be posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting and closed 10 days prior to the meeting.

At this date, the agenda will include:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary's Report
3. Elections for Council Officers, Council & Committee Members
4. Pastor's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Ministry and Mission Committees Reports
7. President's Report
8. Adoption of 2021 Budget
9. Resolutions (if any)
10. Election Results
11. Recognitions
12. Benediction



The Annual Report will be available at the church on Sunday, January 17, and from the church office during the week prior to the **Annual Meeting**, on **Sunday, January 24**.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

An age old call that continues to give hope for today... familiar... a calm in the midst of the storms... a peace that brings stillness when we are certain that we are being swallowed up and going to drown in the raging storms of life.

So today friends as we roll into a new year. I would suggest we are wise to not ignore that yes in so MANY ways 2020 has been a real "something" AND yet we may, can and by God's grace WILL rejoice always. We rejoice in the coming of the Christ Child. We rejoice in Jesus who saves God's people and makes us whole. We REJOICE that Love came down at Christmas and joined with us and continues to abide with us now and always. Love's name is Jesus and it is HE who authors our rejoicing.

Blessed Christmas season and may God be with us as a source of guidance and joy as we move into this new season of life.

Christ is born and has come to us... may peace be yours now and always... REJOICE!

revEric

2021 LEADERSHIP

During this challenging year Wooden Cross has continued our missions and ministries with the help of our active and engaged council and committees.



Our leadership is essential to carry on our work and support of our ministries and outreach; as well as helping to guide the congregation through challenging times.

The Nomination Committee has been working tirelessly to fill the open positions in time to be voted on at our Annual Meeting on January 24. Thank you to everyone who has committed to serve for 2021.

And a big thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee:

- Sherman Johnson
- Jone Vrhel
- Blaine Wastell

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

M A N Y T H A N K S !

Thank you to the Wooden Cross family, your holiday generosity resulted in 22 bags of groceries and paper products that were collected and delivered to the Maltby Food Bank, along with a \$295 donation; \$455 was sent to ELCA World Hunger.

Giving Tree gifts included \$815 plus two \$250 Thrivent Grants for Acres of Diamonds to support women and children in transitional housing in Duvall. The donations purchased meat certificates which were delivered to AOD on December 16 and will provide much needed protein for the seven families currently residing there. They were very grateful for your generosity. \$675 was donated for the Foss Home Music and Memory Program supplies for the elderly at Foss Home and Village. Camp Unity received \$215 plus a \$250 Thrivent Grant for ORCA Cards to help residents with their transportation needs. Several individual donations were given for ELCA Good Gifts—meeting personal needs that support life in the U.S. and worldwide.

Your sharing and generosity is a blessing to many people of all ages!

—Christian Response Committee

A U C T I O N T H A N K Y O U !

Wooden Cross held its Annual Auction this past September/October. Because of the COVID pandemic, we had to conduct the auction online. We found a website which offered all the tools we needed, and did not charge a fee to host the auction. (The site relies upon “tips” from bidders to support its operation.)

Our auction was a success! We raised over \$7,000 in support of our missions such as Acres of Diamonds the Maltby Food Bank and HopeLink. We also raised funds for our education programs oriented toward our youth; annual scholarships; and a future upgrade to our AV system.

Thank you to all of you who donated items and services, many of them made with your own hands. Actually, those items handmade by congregation members and others who support us, were some of the most popular items—frequently raising more than the value placed on them!



O U R M I S S I O N P A R T N E R S

The ELCA is committed to work for “sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all.” Each of our ministry partners helps Lutherans in this congregation do that, as we work together with others to support and service God’s people in need.

- ◆ Foss Home
- ◆ Hopelink Food Bank Harvest
- ◆ Camp Unity Eastside
- ◆ Maltby Food Bank
- ◆ Acres of Diamonds
- ◆ Earth Ministry
- ◆ Lutheran Community Services Northwest
- ◆ Tiny Houses Project, Eastside Village Alliance



Thank you also to those of you who bid on the items. Your bidding, and your donations to our three fundraising programs, will go along way to continue to support missions and programs important to Wooden Cross.

Thank you to the members of the Auction Team. Even though the things were not done as interactively as in past years, your support was very important to me and Wooden Cross.

It was disappointing that we could not hold our auction in person this year. I think all of us missed the opportunity to interact with each other, to see and touch the items available for bid, and to enjoy a meal with family and friends. We hope that our 2021 auction will, once again, be held in person.

Peter Marschalk
2020 Wooden Cross Auction Coordinator

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					 Happy New Year! New Year Holiday! Office Closed.	
3 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Christmas Décor Take Down & Put Away	4 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	5 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 3:15-4:15p Handbell Choir 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	6 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study Uke Group on hiatus	7 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 6:00-8:30p Quilters	8 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori	9
10 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	11 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	12 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 11:15p Handbells 7-9 p Boy Scouts	13 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study Uke Group on hiatus 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	14 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 6:00-8:30p Quilters	15 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori	16
17 Annual Reports Available 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service FEB NEWS Article Due!	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Office Closed. No Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	19 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 11:15p Handbells 7-9 p Boy Scouts	20 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study Uke Group on hiatus	21 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 6:00-8:30p Quilters 6:30p Worship Committee 6:30p Cub Scouts	22 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori	23
24 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 12:00 Annual Meeting via ZOOM	25 No Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	26 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 11:15p Handbells 5:00p Camp Unity Dinner 7-9 p Boy Scouts	27 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study Uke Group on hiatus	28 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori 6:00-8:30p Quilters	29 8-3:30 Acorn Montessori	30
31 Installation of Elected Leadership 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service						