



Wooden Cross Newsletter

December, 2023



WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

We are disciples of Jesus, connecting with God, growing in faith and friendship, who go to invite and serve that all will know and follow Jesus.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

"O come let us adore him..."

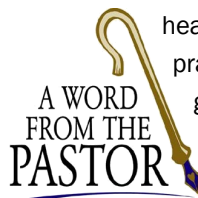
Dear friends,

Christ is born for you. He is God's love offering into a world that too often despises Him and yet he is born for that self-same world's sake. It is this truth that marks out this season to be one of Great Joy! We are people of this promise and in this child born and laid in a manger is our Life and sole Hope.

How will you adore Jesus? What distracts you from that adoration? How might this year be one of greater adoration than perhaps what has marked yester-years? What would it mean for you to grow in your adoration?

I think in many ways these are the questions for God's people as we enter a season that has amplified in commercialism, secular sentiments, and sentimentality in an ever increasing pluralistic world. We live in a time when people celebrate Christmas without really believing in Christ Jesus. It is more likely to tune into "Holiday Radio" and hear "holiday songs" than songs that proclaim Jesus as the reason for the festivities. The "holiday movies" available to us (and yes I do watch them all every year) really have little if anything to do with Jesus (the one standout I can even think of is the original Charlie Brown Christmas movie). Throw in a shopping phenomenon that in many ways stalks our every moment with the accessibility of technology (Amazon app anyone?) and we live in times where we can be "festive" with little need to be "faithful."

For God's people though, there is something so much more going on here though isn't there? We have opportunity to hear again the depth of God's love. We



hear angels lighting up the skies and singing their praises of God's work to bring about peace and goodwill for us. We hear of God's surprising entry into the world for our sake and how the mystery of God is at last made visible in a way we actually can receive and know and understand. We hear of how God is working to redeem this world and that includes each one of us!

So let us indeed adore Him! Let us gather around this story afresh and anew. Let us return to God and

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- Natasha CarlsonPresident
- Blaine WastellVice President
- Peggy ReiberSecretary/Treasurer
- Sally Simpson..... Council Member
- Chantal Carlson Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson Council Member
- Jone Vrhel..... Council Member



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Come and celebrate with us at our special Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24.

10:00 AM

7:30 PM

Featuring special music by the vocal and handbell choirs



YEAR-END GIFTS

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Wooden Cross this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions. If you would like to make a **special year-end contribution**, please send it (or drop it off) to the Church by **December 31**. 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-THU, 7:30 AM—3:00 PM

Church Email woodencrosslc@gmail.com

Website www.WeAreWoodenCross.org

Pastor Office Hours T-Th: 9:30 AM—2:30 PM; Fri. by Appointment

Pastor Email revericg@hotmail.com

PastorEric Griffith

Secretary / BookkeeperKathy Corneloup

Organist / Music Director Seung Lee

Special Music Ensemble Musicians

Altar GuildSally Simpson

2023 Stewardship



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

2023 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,649

OCT	Week 1:	\$3,976	
	Week 2:	\$6,160	
	Week 3:	\$7,695	
	Week 4:	\$6,718	
	Week 5:	<u>\$636</u>	
		\$25,184	

Weekly Average: \$5,037

NOV	Week 1:	\$4,973	
	Week 2:	\$4,395	
	Week 3:	\$2,040	
	Week 4:	<u>\$952</u>	
		\$12,360	

Weekly Average: \$3,090

Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

By Constitution the Church Council announces this first public notice of **Wooden Cross' Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024.** The Church Council will host a brunch after the worship service. The **Annual Meeting** will follow the brunch.



We encourage you to attend this important annual event. This is our family remembrance and celebration time! It is also our time to elect our Parish Family Leaders. 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 2024 Budget
9. Resolutions (if any)
10. Election Results
11. Recognitions
12. Benediction

The Annual Report will be available at Church on Sunday, January 14, and from the Church Office during the week prior to the **Annual Meeting**, on **Sunday, January 21.**

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.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM (in-person and on ZOOM). The Bible Study helps people grow in their relationships with God and neighbors.



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.



CONSIDER SHARING YOUR VOICE!

It's time to make some music! And the Wooden Cross Choir is ready to start singing again!



Seung Lee will lead the choir as the new Interim Director. Why not add more music to your life and consider joining the choir!

The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, All voices welcome—particularly sopranos!

WOODEN CROSS LIVESTREAM CHANNEL



Wooden Cross church services are now available on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. You can now watch our Sunday morning worship services online, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services. Visit us at our church website—**WeAreWoodenCross.org**, and click on the streaming link. Be sure to “subscribe” to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later. Through this technology we are able to expand our ministry anywhere in the world and let people learn more about us and our ministry.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

**C H R I S T M A S
S T O R Y W A L K**

New this year Wooden Cross will celebrate the Advent-Christmas Season with **StoryWalks** on **December 2 and December 3, from 4:00-6:00 PM.**

Wooden Cross extended families, grandkids, grandparents, neighbors and friends are invited and encouraged to get together and have fun sharing the nativity story.



There will be with 12 StoryWalk stations, ending at the campfire pit with crafts and hot beverages. Please bring your flashlights as we walk the labyrinth, trails and firepit areas this Advent Season. Looking forward to seeing you!

E L C A G O O D G I F T S

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA. An ELCA Good Gift, given in the name of your loved one, honors them while helping fight hunger or disease, transforming lives and growing the church. Choose a gift from the catalog, and place your order from different ELCA churchwide ministries. There are dozens of other opportunities!



Consider getting a card in honor of a friend or loved one. These gifts will make a big impact on the needs in our global communities. For more information, visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or search "ELCA Good Gifts."

**C H R I S T M A S G I V I N G
T R E E T H A N K Y O U !**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree. Your donations supported **Acres of Diamonds**—a transitional living residence in Duvall that serves women and children; and **HopeLink**—a family agency that serves children and youth in King County. Thank you for participating.



—Christian Response Committee

**A D V E N T R E T R E A T
O P P O R T U N I T Y**

Illuminated 2023

**An Online Journey
Into the Heart
of Christmas**

December 3-27, 2023



You are invited to participate in "Illuminated 2023—An Online Journey into the Heart of Christmas" led by Jan Richardson, **December 3-27.**

This 4-week online retreat provides an opportunity to journey through Advent and Christmas in contemplation and conversation with others along the way. The retreat will offer a space of elegant simplicity, intertwining reflection, art, music and community.

This online retreat is not about adding one more thing to your holiday schedule. It is about helping you find spaces for reflection that draw you deep into a season that shimmers with mystery and possibility.

Participants will receive three emails each week (Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday), plus emails for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These emails will feature written reflections, questions, and blessings by Jan, along with artwork she has created for your Advent journey.

Music from Garrison Doles will weave through the retreat, drawing you deep into the gifts of this season with his original songs and reflective instrumental pieces.

An optional online forum will also be available. The forum is a space where you can offer responses and engage others during the retreat. Jan will host the forum and the conversation that will take place there.

Retreat Cost: **\$60 per person** (for a group of 8 or more). To register, or more information, please contact **Jone Vrhel, 425-205-1636.**

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

rest again in THE story of peace and goodwill that God authors for our sake. Let us have this year be a season of Connecting with the God who is born FOR us. In Christ we live and move and have our being. May the One you adore live in you and grant you hope, peace, and life not only through this Christmas, but each and every day of your life and into the life to come.

Christ is born FOR you... may he today be born IN you as well. May your adoration be joy filled and in it may you know peace!

Merry Christmas and joyous Advent!

RevEric

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!



2024 LEADERSHIP

The **Nomination Committee** is busy securing the nominees for open elected leadership positions on the Ministry and Mission Committees—Worship & Formation, Christian Response, Christian Connection, and the Finance Team for the year 2024.



Church Leadership

Nominees will be found in the willingness of members to commit their time and talents to leadership roles, and to active participation in ministries of special interest—around the abilities and talents they have to share.

The Nomination Committee has the responsibility to prepare the ballot of nominees for election at the **Annual Meeting and Brunch**, on **Sunday, January 21, 2024**. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact one of the **Nomination Committee Members**: Steven Carlson, Art Hammers berg, Sherman Johnson and Doug Pearman.

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/>
- Camp Lutherwood**.....<http://www.camlutherwood.org/>
- Compass Housing Alliance**<https://www.compasshousingalliance.org/>
- Earth Ministry**.....<https://earthministry.org/>
- Foss Home & Village**<http://www.fosscares.org/>
- Habitat for Humanity**.....<https://www.habitat.org/>
- Holden Village**.....<http://www.holdenvillage.org/>
- Hopelink Food Bank**.....<https://www.hopelink.org/>
- Lutheran Campus Ministry**.....<https://www.lutheransnw.org/campus-ministry>
- 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/>



CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>3 Advent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 2024 Stewardship Report Giving Tree Donations Due! 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 4:00-6:00p StoryWalk</p>	<p>4 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>5 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 4:15-5:15p Handbell Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 8 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	<p>2 11:30 StoryWalk Set-up 4:00-6:00p StoryWalk</p>
<p>10 Advent 2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>11 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>12 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p Christian Response 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 4:15-5:15p Handbell Rehearsal 7:00p Church Council</p>	<p>14 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 5:00-8:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Lumsden)</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Advent 3 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch JAN NEWS Articles Due!</p>	<p>18 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>19 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>20 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> No Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 4:15-5:15p Handbell Rehearsal 7:00p Worship Zoom Mtg</p>	<p>21 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Advent 4 Christmas Eve 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30p</p> 	<p>25 Merry Christmas! <i>No Acorn Montessori Winter Break</i></p> 	<p>26 <i>No Acorn Montessori Winter Break</i></p>	<p>27 <i>No Acorn Montessori Winter Break</i></p>	<p>28 <i>No Acorn Montessori Winter Break</i></p>	<p>29 <i>No Acorn Montessori Winter Break</i></p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Lessons & Carols Service</p>						