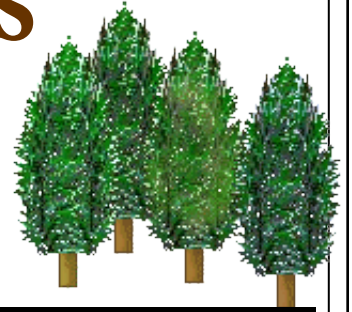


Wooden Cross Newsletter



February, 2024

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

At this dawning of Lent 2024...

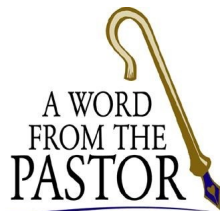
Dearest friends of Christ Jesus our Lord,

I write to you today to invite you into a place where “reversal” is BOTH beautiful and needful in our worship of God and our relationship with Christ Jesus who dwells amongst us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Before going too deeply however, let me begin with exploring what I mean by “reversal” with you all. “Reversal” is a very good English usage of the *idea* beneath another term perhaps more familiar in “Christian-ese,” that being the word “repentance.” It is the notion that we are to reverse or “turn-around” from anything that fouls relationship with God. Anything that seduces us from an ease of being with God... in conversation... in trust... in presence and communion... in vulnerability... reliant upon... forsaking any other... without hesitation... without reluctance... in childlike wonder... ANYTHING that keeps us from this state of being in faith are the things that “foul” relationship with God and lets be very clear here... these things are not neutral things in you or me. These things are the things that God’s people from the very beginnings of the story we encounter in Genesis (literally “in the beginning”) have called, seduced, deceived and destroyed God’s people time and again.

These are the things that we let in to our lives...

These are the things in the presence of which we exist as a people behind enemy lines, living as we do in a



creation that for this time exists in a state of rebellion against the God who created, sustains, and even actively continually works to redeem and heal.

These are the tools and weapons of our own rebellious hearts as we too live out that struggle between seeking righteousness and running far from it, for we too, each one of us, are prodigal children in our own rights.

We are the fertile soil in which all sin resides and takes stubborn root much like weeds invading a garden. As things like pride, arrogance, gluttony, sloth, apathy, dehumanization, self-centeredness, amongst a whole litany of other sins great and small take root within us. Though created in the “imago-Dei” (image of God) we are fallen and complicit in the brokenness on

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- Natasha Carlson President
- Blaine Wastell Vice President
- Peggy Reiber Secretary/Treasurer
- Sally Simpson..... Council Member
- Chantal Carlson Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson Council Member
- Jone Vrhel..... Council Member
- _____ Youth Representative

WEDNESDAY MORNING 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.

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.

2023 Stewardship



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

2024 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,818

DEC	Week 1:	\$1,450	
	Week 2:	\$6,711	
	Week 3:	\$2,297	
	Week 4:	\$4,213	
	Week 5:	\$4,724	
		\$19,395	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,879
JAN	Week 1:	\$5,460	
	Week 2:	\$6,787	
	Week 3:	\$3,724	
		\$15,971	
	Weekly Average:		\$5,324

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—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

Pastor Eric Griffith

Secretary / Bookkeeper Kathy Corneloup

Music Director/Organist Seung Lee

Special Music Ensemble Musicians

Altar Guild Coordinator Sally Simpson

GET READY TO TACKLE HUNGER!

As we prepare for the Super Bowl Festivities, the youth of our nation are gearing up for **Super Bowl of Caring** on



Sunday, February 4. It all began with a simple prayer: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Scouts from Troop #422 challenge you to be part of our “team” to stamp out hunger! Our goal is to fill the shelves at the Maltby Food Bank! We need you, to bring your “A” game by donating non-perishable food items or monetary donations. Wish list items include: Peanut Butter, Rice-a-Roni, Hamburger Helper, Egg Noodles, Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Cranberry Juice, and Apple Juice.

So now it is time for you to gear up and make the big play in support of those in need! Thank you for participating in this team effort! Thank you!

SCOUT SUNDAY!

Scout Sunday is a day to recognize the contributions of young people and adults in the Scouting program.



Scout Sunday will be celebrated at Wooden Cross on **Sunday, February 4** during the worship service. All past and present Scouters—adults and young people—are encouraged to wear their uniforms or scouting pins in support of Scout Sunday.

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!



ANNUAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The **Annual Leadership Workshop** for all **2024 Council & Committee Members** will be in February (date and time will be announced soon). Please do everything possible to adjust your schedules and attend this workshop.



New Council and Committee Members elected for 2024 will appreciate the attendance and participation of continuing leaders—which is essential for a smooth transition into our new ministries and mission year.

The workshop is also an opportunity for council and committees to meet and briefly review roles, responsibilities and direction, set meeting times, and appoint chairpersons and council liaisons.

WOODEN CROSS IS NOW STREAMING!



Wooden Cross is now streaming church services live on Sunday mornings on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. Through this channel, you are able to connect online and watch the live stream of our Sunday morning worship services, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services.

It’s easy to find us, just visit us at our church website—**WeAreWoodenCross.org**, then click on the streaming link. Choosing to subscribe allows you to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later.

This technology allows us to expand our ministry anywhere in the world and let people learn more about us and our ministry as we Connect, Grow in faith, and Serve in our communities, following Jesus and helping others do the same!

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

display in this world. Uncomfortable as it may be, when presented with the proper “mirror” though, we can begin to see how evil works and how we are not allowed to think of our selves immune to these influences as though we are above such things.

It is uncomfortable and yet it is needful. It is needful because God who is Holy, isn't content to allow this fallen world to exist as fallen. Instead God actively works within the muck and mud of this rebellious reality to seek out and save those with heart to receive, eyes to see and ears to hear. God confronts and condemns within us that which is ugly and sin-soaked SO THAT we will no longer be trapped within that reality of our own participation. The Cross of Christ Jesus becomes then the mirror through which we can begin to see ourselves in truth... we are fallen and yet in Christ we are made wholly new!!! ...and here, true beauty IS revealed.

There is beauty in returning to God and being made whole. There is beauty in having our dirty rags exchanged for robes white as snow. There is beauty in coming to know God as “Abba” (Dad/Pops). There is beauty in coming to truly know Jesus as “friend.” There is beauty in discarding the shackles that ever seek to re-bind us in broken despair as our Enemy continues to prowl seeking those whom he may devour. There is beauty in facing the reality as it exists in our own hearts and releasing to Jesus that He may reach within us and mold and shape us to His will as a potter shaping clay.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



You are invited to join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service** on **February 14** at **7:00 PM**.

There is beauty here in God for us... it is His to give... and He seeks to deliver this gift to us more than we likely will ever truly know.

In this coming Lent season (beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14th), I invite you to join me in seeking reversal, and in so doing discovering the needful correction that turns us anew into the beauty that is God... with us... for us... seeking our daily reversal that becomes our pathway of beauty!

God bless us all in this journey dear friends!

In Christ

RevEric

LENT 2024



- | | | |
|--------|--------------|--|
| FEB 14 | 7:00 PM | Ash Wednesday Service |
| FEB 21 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Lenten Dinner Church—
"God-Soaked Soup & Bread"
Theme: Heart |
| FEB 28 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Lenten Dinner Church—
"God-Soaked Soup & Bread"
Theme: Mind |
| MAR 6 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Lenten Dinner Church—
"God-Soaked Soup & Bread"
Theme: Soul |
| MAR 13 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Lenten Dinner Church—
"God-Soaked Soup & Bread"
Theme: Strength |
| MAR 20 | 6:00-7:00 PM | Lenten Dinner Church—
"God-Soaked Soup & Bread"
Theme: Love |

2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 4:00-5:00p Handbells 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group (Youth)</i>	2 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	3
4 Souper Bowl of Caring Scout Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	5 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	6 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	7 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group (Sanctuary) 6:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary)	8 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 4:00-5:00p Handbells 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	10
11 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	12 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	13 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response 7:00p Church Council	14 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group (Sanctuary) 7:00p ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	15 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 4:00-5:00p Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	17
18 Lent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Holden Prayer Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch MAR NEWS Article Duel!	19 President's Day Holiday <i>Acorn Montessori</i> Mid-Winter Break 7:00p AA	20 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> Mid-Winter Break 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Worship Zoom Mtg	21 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> Mid-Winter Break No Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group (Sanctuary) 6:00-7:00p Lenten Dinner Church "God-Soaked Soup & Bread" Theme: Heart	22 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> Mid-Winter Break 4:00-5:00p Handbells 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	23 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> Mid-Winter Break	24
25 Lent 2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Holden Prayer Worship Service	26 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	27 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	28 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group (Sanctuary) 6:00-7:00p Lenten Dinner Church "God-Soaked Soup & Bread" Theme: Mind			