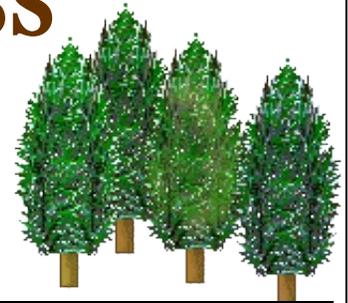


Wooden Cross Newsletter



November, 2022

WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Wooden Cross is a welcoming, Christ-centered community believing in grace and living in faith and service.

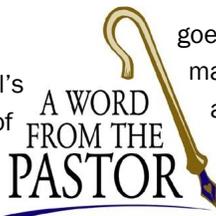
A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

A couple weeks back we read from Paul's second letter to Timothy. In it Paul offers words of encouragement and instruction for how Timothy ought conduct himself in ministry. One of our congregation approached me after service telling me that I succeeded in helping her think on some uncomfortable reminders from Scripture. Pointing out to me these words from the reading for the day:

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. —2 Timothy 4:3-4

"Itchy Ears" Paul termed it... that well known if not always well recognized aspect of our participation in faith where we are enthused to hear what we want to hear and tune out (or grow angry... or depart... or dislike the "messenger" whether its a pastor or whomever) those aspects of God's Word we don't want speaking into our lives as a source of disruption to our world view such as it is. Though not a term used in the Old Testament, I think it's the dynamic that is underneath why the prophets were rarely listened to... it's underneath why so often Jesus was opposed by the very people who would have been most familiar with the words of Scripture he so frequently quoted... it's why churches are so often seen as "behind the times"... it's why we grow uncomfortable when we encounter preaching or teaching from Scripture that we would want to hold at arm's length... it's an old dynamic that



goes back to the serpent in the garden helping to make Eve's ears itch... it's a dynamic as alive today as ever it was in days gone by.

Just as Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5) said "whoa is me... I am a man of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips" I think we each could honestly say, "whoa is me for I have itchy ears and I come from a people of itchy ears." Not only do I think our ears itch and we want to hear only what we want to hear... but frankly several fundamental parts of our technological society are built around exaggerating the desire and even feeding and catering to this very dynamic. We live in a time when it's more the norm than an exception to the rule that we are being fed a diet of what powerful integrated technological forces have meticulously profiled around each one of us to

Continued on Page 4



Pastor's Message	1 & 4
Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social	2
Special Congregational Meeting	3
Phantom of the Auction	5
LWR Quilt Ingathering	6
Giving Tree	7
November Calendar	8



- Steven Carlson President
- Natasha Carlson Vice President
- Sherman Johnson Secretary
- Doug Pearman Treasurer
- Art Hammersberg Council Member
- Deb Schuldt Council Member
- Sally Simpson Council Member
- Chantal Carlson Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson Council Member
- Peter Marschalk Council Member
- Ben Carlson Youth Representative

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE



Our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 PM is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for our many blessings during the past year.

The monetary offering will go to support local hunger.

THANKSGIVING EVE POTLUCK PIE SOCIAL

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service, you are invited to join us for a Potluck Pie Fellowship.



2022 Stewardship



STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

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

2022 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,334

SEP	Week 1:	\$2,314	
	Week 2:	\$2,766	
	Week 3:	\$6,844	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,131</u>	
			\$14,055
	Weekly Average:		\$3,514
OCT	Week 1:	\$3,330	
	Week 2:	\$2,970	
	Week 3:	\$8,450	
	Week 3:	<u>\$4,100</u>	
			\$18,850
	Weekly Average:		\$3,770

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

Pastor Eric Griffith

Secretary / Bookkeeper Kathy Corneloup

Organist / Interim Music Director Seung Lee

Special Music Ensemble Musicians

Altar Guild Sally Simpson

**2023
LEADERSHIP**



Church 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 2023.

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 22, 2023**.

If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact one of the **Nomination Committee Members**: Peter Marschalk and Betty Scott.

**SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Your Church Council has approved the sale of the easement used by American Tower. Official documents must be signed for the sale. In accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, for the sale of real property the congregation must approve a member of the congregation to sign the necessary documents.

A **Special Congregation Meeting** will be held after the worship service on **Sunday, November 6**. The sole purpose of the meeting will be to select a congregation member and authorize that member to sign the documents necessary to complete the sale. Congregation members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Thank you.

SING FOR JOY!

Consider sharing your voice and enriching your life with music. The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. All voices welcome—particularly sopranos! The choir is led by Seung Lee, Interim Director.



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, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you.

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!



SHARE YOUR FAITH

It is a joy to share things that are important to us—events, achievements and vacations. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus gives his disciples a job—He tells us to share our faith with others.



The Church Council is inviting worshipping members of Wooden Cross Lutheran Church to share their faith with their fellow church members. We are excited about this opportunity because it truly is a joy to share things that are important to us with others.

—Steven Carlson, Council President

Daylight Savings Time Ends
In the wee hours of Sunday, November 6.
Remember to set your clocks back!



CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

deliver helpings of what they “know” each one of us is interested in and connected with. Whether its our politics, our social concerns, our purchasing preferences, our news and media consumption and the implicit extreme biases present contained therein, or even our social connections and what can be mined from looking at how even we are connected one to another... we are being fed a continuous stream of whatever it has been decided by these entities we “want” to hear.

These tools are sophisticated and apparently INCREDIBLY effective at their purposes. I use as my evidence just how incredibly balkanized and divided we have allowed ourselves to become over the past decade or so... I'd say these entities have connected better than ever with our itchy ears to the point where families, friendships, neighbors, and faith communities have grown strained and even severed from one another we have become. People are increasingly isolated for amplifying “why” we have itchy ears in the first place, we have become less and less willing to allow others to speak in ways that do not compliment our itchy ears.

The thing is though, we Christians who have the Biblical record from which to draw and learn should never be surprised by this dynamic... nor unprepared to function within a culture that is enslaved to this dynamic. And yet I see my brothers and sisters in Christ as divided and balkanized as anyone else around us... and perhaps even more so at times. It's almost like we (like God's people throughout time) have chosen to learn and listen more to our culture and its wavering, changeable ways with our “itchy ears” than remain firmly rooted in God's Word as our norm of faith and life. God warns his people time and again of the brokenness and evil that emerges when His people demand to go ways apart from His and yet time and again they do so anyway. God refuses to give up on them as they rebel... even as they depart from him time and again.

Will our itchy ears lead us to chase after words that are not God's? Will our itchy ears lead us to listen to cultural voices that will reward us with kudos and accolades and encouragements as we follow “enlightened” siren voices to our destruction? Will our

itchy ears have us endorsing what God does not? Will our itchy ears cause us to grow impatient and angry with those who seek to call us to fidelity to our scripture even when it would place us at odds with whatever “thing” is “the thing” today? Will our itchy ears continue to listen to those who endorse sidelining or outright eliminating those considered backward or small minded for clinging to their faith in the face of secular popular opinion?

Friends I'd love for these not to be the “questions” I'm asking, but the reality is that we ignore the phenomenon of “itchy ears” to great peril. God's word calls us to fidelity and trust filled faith in God and to have no other idols before him. Itchy Ears come about through idolatry seeking always to sneak in and break us from God... idolatry of “self” for its capacity and desire to be in the sovereign role... idolatries of (small g) gods of wealth, property, influence, popularity and the like in numerous ways to set us contrary to God with self justification as the goal for “self-justification” is not only a fools errand, but the way into death itself.

If reading this scripture that warns of “itchy ears” helps to make you uncomfortable, I say “good” and “may it ever be so!” Idolatry is at the root of sin and “itchy ears” is one of its oft used tools. So be watchful. Be repentant in those times when you notice your ears growing itchy. Be humble to the authority of Scripture. Be kind to one another and dare to break our cultural model of disparaging others as they seek to be faithful even if you aren't where they stand in conviction. Above all...

Keep your eyes, hearts AND ears focused upon Jesus who is our way, truth, and life. He is our only Way. He is our teacher, our prophet, and Savior who gives his life that we will live. He is consistent yesterday, today and always as our bulwark in times of shifting sands and fluid culture. Listen to his word for he is the Word made flesh and his Words are the Word of Eternal life. Where else can we go? To whom else ought we listen?

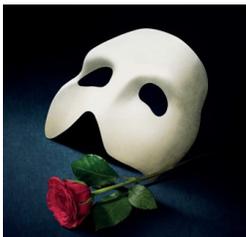
Listen to Jesus and let your itchy ears be at peace in the hearing.

In Christ

RevEric

P H A N T O M O F T H E A U C T I O N

The **Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction**—“Phantom of the Auction”—is **Saturday, November 5, 2022!**



contacting businesses you have a relationship with for a donation or gift certificate. Donation forms are available on the church entrance table and can be emailed upon request.

You are invited to join us for this free family-friendly event. This annual event is a wonderful occasion to relax, visit, and enjoy a meal with friends. It is also a great opportunity for you to invite your neighbors, relatives and friends! This lively evening of fun, food and music will have Silent and Live Auctions with variety of items for ALL ages! Sign up today in the narthex for a bid number!

This event is made possible with the help of many volunteers. If you'd like to help, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

The Auction Team is currently collection donations of items and services from the Wooden Cross family and area businesses for the Silent and Live Auctions.

Proceeds from the Auction will support Wooden Cross mission and ministry projects such as Acres of Diamonds, Camp Lutherwood, ELCA Disaster Response, Foss Home, Habitat for Humanity, Holden Village, Hopelink, LCS/Compass Housing Alliance, Local and World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, and Maltby Food Bank. *The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.* We appreciate your continued support and participation!

There are many ways to donate—re-gifting a new item; baking a special dish; hand-making an item or offering a service, etc. You may also consider

Peg Skiftenes
Deb Schuldt

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

F R I E N D S I N M I N I S T R Y

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.camplutherwood.org/>
- Compass Housing Alliance..... <https://www.compasshousingalliance.org/>
- Earth Ministry..... <https://earthministry.org/>
- Foss Home & Village <http://www.fosscare.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/>

**W E D N E S D A Y
M O R N I N G
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.

**L U T H E R A N W O R L D
R E L I E F Q U I L T E R S**



More than a dozen quilts were blessed on October 30th in preparation for the 2022 Fall LWR Ingathering.

Our faithful cadre of quilters include Betty Scott, Jone Vrhel, Cinda Woody, Linda Griffith, Sally Simpson, Nancy VanDalsem, Sandy Hammersburg, and Peg Jessen. Thanks to all of them.

For any who would join us in sharing God's warmth and love with the world—you don't have to know how to sew or own a machine—we've got you covered, AND Betty loves helping others learn new skills.

The Wooden Cross Quilters meet on alternating Sunday and Thursday afternoons. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board. Projects are available to work on at home as well. All sewers and helpers welcome.

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."

P A S T O R A L C A R E

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.



A M A Z O N S M I L E

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Wooden Cross every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Wooden Cross.



On your first visit to AmazonSmile, simply select Wooden Cross as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

C H R I S T M A S G I V I N G T R E E

The Wooden Cross Christmas Giving Tree will up at the end of November and decorated with gift tags to meet the requests of our ministry partners who serve people in need throughout our community.



Our members are God’s hands doing His work. Our Christmas giving allows those partners to meet the needs of young and old who may otherwise have lonely, meager Christmases. Through the Giving Tree and our monetary gifts, such as to ELCA Good Gifts, we can share Divine love with neighbors in many practical ways during Advent when we Christians feel so blessed by the incredible gift of God’s son, Jesus, to a hurting world.

Acres of Diamonds. This Duvall transitional living residence serves women and children. We will be collecting items specifically for the children, such as weighted blankets to help with trauma they have experienced. We will also be collecting other useful items, and donations for meat certificates. Checks may be made payable to: “Wooden Cross” and note AoD in the memo line.

Foss Home. We will again be collecting Christmas donations for the Foss Home Music and Memory Program. This program provides residents with i-pods that have personalized playlists. The gift of

personalized music helps residents with a range of cognitive and physical challenges find renewed meaning and connection, tapping into deep memories not lost to dementia. Monetary donations can be designated by making checks payable to “Wooden Cross/Foss Home”. Thank you for your generosity toward our senior citizens!

HopeLink Gifts. This family agency serves children and youth in King County. Monetary donations will supply a child or youth with gifts for Christmas. Parents select appropriate gifts for their children. Please make your checks payable to: “Wooden Cross” and note HopeLink in the memo line.

All gifts and donations need to be delivered to Wooden Cross **by Sunday, December 12.**

—Christian Response Committee

**C L O T H I N G N O L O N G E R
B E G I N C O L L E C T E D**



Please note that the Christian Response Committee is no longer collecting used clothing. Please take your items directly to the charity of your choice. Thank you.

F A N A N N U A L D I N N E R

The Faith Action **FAITH ACTION NETWORK** will host their **Annual Dinner & Fundraising Celebration—“Pathways of Solidarity”** on **Sunday, November 20.** Doors open at 4:30, and the program begins at 5:30 PM.

The FAN Dinner will be an in-person gathering this year in Renton (at the Renton Pavilion, 233 Burnett Avenue S.) and Spokane (at the Thrive Center, 110 E. 4th Avenue).

They will also be offering an online option for those who can’t attend in person. A YouTube link will be sent the week before the event to those who have registered. Register online at: <https://fanwa.org/annual-dinner/>

**G O O D N E I G H B O R S
F O O D B A N K**

The Good Neighbors Association (GNA)—a member of the Washington Food Coalition—teams with contributing grocery and food service stores to find beneficial uses for excess products. The GNA serves those in the community who are missed by other distribution systems, or do not qualify for public services.

Up to 300 families are fed every day. In addition to feeding individual families, the GNA supplies groceries to various charities. All donations are distributed locally within the community.

The GNA organizes a grocery distribution at Wooden Cross on Thursdays from 9:30 AM–12:00 NOON.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2022

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Auction Set Up 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	2 8:00-12:00 Facility Use: Woodinville Garden Club (Sanctuary & Fellowship) 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	3 Auction Set Up 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:00a Handbells 7:30p Choir	4 Auction Set Up 9-2:45 Acom Montessori	5 LWR Quilt Ingathering Wooden Cross Phantom of the Auction 
6 All Saints Sunday! Daylight Savings Ends! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	7 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 7:00p AA	8 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	9 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	10 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:00a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 6:30-8:30p Theater Group (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir	11 Veteran's Day No Acom Montessori	12
13 9:00 Finance Team 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	14 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Rm) 7:00p AA	15 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room) 7-9 p Boy Scouts	16 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room) 2:00p Uke Group 7:00p Worship Comm.	17 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:00a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 6:30-8:30p Theater Group (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir	18 9-2:45 Acom Montessori	19
20 Stewardship Commitment Sunday! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch DEC NEWS Article Due 1:00-4:00 Facility Use: Scout Leadership Training (Youth Rm) Mike Cato	21 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Rm) 7:00p AA 7:00-9:00 Facility Use: Scout Meeting (Prayer Chapel) Kyle Partridge	22 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7-9 p Boy Scouts	23 9-2:45 Acom Montessori No Adult Bible Study 7:30p Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service & Potluck Pie Social	24 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed 	25 Holiday. Office Closed.	26
27 Advent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Giving Tree Set Up 11:00 Decorating for Advent/ Christmas/Epiphany— Banners, Tree, outdoor lights, etc.	28 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7:00p AA	29 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7-9 p Boy Scouts	30 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary			