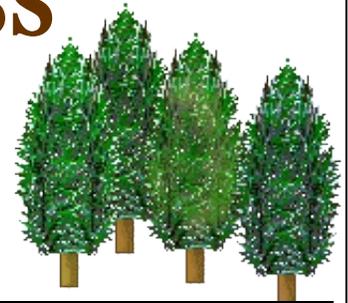


Wooden Cross Newsletter



July, 2022

WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

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

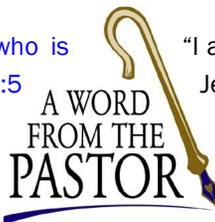
A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. —1 Peter 4:5

Dearest Children of God,

We are under judgment. I know it sounds almost foreign to say this in a culture that often trumpets the gospel of “do not judge.” Foreign too in that our own wider church body, the ELCA echoes this cultural gospel with it’s continual elevation of a gospel of “Radical Inclusivity” (a phrase I heard repeatedly at our most recent Synod Assembly). As a nearly 51-year-old “Lutheran-type-Christian” I think I’ve spent more time hearing and therefore also preaching concepts of “grace,” that I’ve underplayed and therefore left largely unspoken the SCRIPTURAL truth that in fact we are actually under judgment firstly to God, and then through God to Christ. God has been banging on me for a while and while I’m yet wrestling with all it may mean, I feel called to now bring you into the wrestling match.

I’ve been going through some “theological renovations” as I’ve been reading and re-reading passages and books of Scripture. Some I’ve read more recently, others have been a bit longer ago when last I’d cracked them. In days past these passages most clearly carried to me words of comfort, healing, and grace. More recently I’m being drawn to some different insights... things not so comfortable, nor well trod. What I’m finding in my readings in this time of “renovation” and perhaps even “renewal” are some things that frankly do not sit quite so comfortably. I’m seeing in passages like the one above questions or faith, life, trust, and life with God that I cannot just isolate as “unimportant” while leaning deeply into core truths like



“I am loved by God” or “I’m baptized” or “I believe in Jesus.” These questions do not negate these core truths, but almost as though standing eye to eye with Jesus and being asked to go deeper, I’m finding myself invited to go into waters that seem a bit more “wavey” and require eyes on Jesus lest my feet sink and I drown. Am I “out of the boat”... maybe... am I walking on water... I’m going to need Jesus to decide, as for me it seems too early to tell.

What is the significance of thinking about being under Christ’s judgment? I think it speaks a couple things that are true. These truths speak ideas that are in tension... meaning they are related, but it (I think) would be incorrect to think of them as one negating the other. They are both true simultaneously... just as

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- 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

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

Thank you for your thoughtful giving throughout the year! It is with your continued support that we are able to meet the financial commitments of our church and provide many social, youth and community ministries.



Summertime is upon us, with warm sunny days, children out of school and packing for long-awaited vacations. While you are enjoying the beautiful days of summer, please remember to continue giving. If you are going to be away, we ask that you consider making your summer offerings before you leave, either at a worship service or by mailing your contribution to the church office. Thank you for your continued support of Wooden Cross.

—Wooden Cross Finance Team

SAVE THE DATE! The **Annual Wooden Cross Auction** will be **Saturday, November 5, 2022!** Donation forms are available on the entrance table. Thank you to Peg Skiftenes and Deb Schuldt for co-coordinating this event.



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

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

MAY	Week 1:	\$4,795	
	Week 2:	\$3,035	
	Week 3:	\$15,445	
	Week 4:	\$2,758	
	Week 5:	<u>\$1,605</u>	
		\$27,638	
	Weekly Average:		\$5,528
JUN	Week 1:	\$2,890	
	Week 2:	\$5,685	
	Week 3:	\$1,595	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,380</u>	
		\$12,550	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,138

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

ACRES OF DIAMONDS FAMILY PICNIC

Wooden Cross is hosting a picnic for Acres of Diamonds families, Beyond Acres of Diamonds families, and Wooden Cross and Light to the World congregations on **Saturday, July 30** beginning at **3:30 PM**.



There will be a variety of activities, including relays and giant bubbles, and a bouncy house. The Light to the World band will provide live music. A BBQ pulled-pork dinner, courtesy of Art Hammersberg, will be at 5:30 PM. There will also be hot dogs for the kids. After dinner, there will be s'mores, guitars, and songs around the fire pit until around 8:00 PM.

You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, or a picnic blanket. This is a potluck event, if you'd like to bring a side dish or beverage, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

If you have questions, contact Deb Schuldt (206-914-2089) or Natasha Carlson (206-841-7701).

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.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

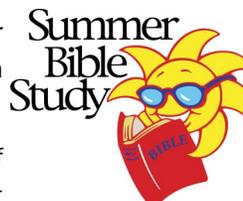
God calls us to grow in faith. Members and friends are invited to grow in their relationships with God. A book of the Bible is selected to read and study together over several weeks to give it full exploration.



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.

SUNDAY SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us for a new Summer Bible Study on Sunday mornings at **11:15 AM**.



Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, has put together a summer Bible study series which uses the concept of quilting to explore rest, renewal and Christian community. We'll discuss Old and New Testament readings as we consider the patterns we follow, and how the pieces of our lives and communities are bound together in Christ.

This one-hour study will compliment Pastor Eric's Wednesday mornings series. If you are interested in participating, please join us! The study will run every other week in July and August.

SUMMER MUSIC!

The Worship Committee is inviting talented musicians, vocalists and performers to share their gifts during the worship services throughout the summer months.



If you play an instrument, sing or dance, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board. Both soloists and groups are welcomed and encouraged.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

something like “sinner, saint” are both truthful statements of who we are in Christ.

One truth is that to be under Christ's judgment is news of the greatest kind. For those who hear his call and trust Him, it becomes for us a word of grace and forgiveness unmerited! His word spoken from the cross of “Father forgive them...” applies to us as a gift given to those who hear Jesus' word and rely upon him as the one giving the judgment.

Another truth that comes up for those under his judgment, is that we are called to respond to this gift with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We are called to answer the I love you, with a life seeking to reflect His love. Not everyone who heard the “come and see” or “come follow me” actually did. Some heard and eventually they fell away... Judas betrayed Jesus... Peter, James, John all received stinging rebukes from Jesus in moments where they were not open to moving as Jesus was leading... the prophets spoke repeatedly to people who had received God's love, mercy, and blessing and chose to throw it away wholesale, leading lives of willful disobedience along the way.

God is not “OK” with this reality... God is not OK with me, you, us, the world jettisoning God from the throne so “my will can be done” rather than “God's will be done.” To be under Christ's judgment is to be under his authority... his sovereignty... meaning He IS First and I (you, any who trust him) am second.

All this has been leading to some deep and oft times uncomfortable soul searching that seems to be God asking me and perhaps asking us...

- ▶ “How many ways do I act upon my own will while assuming God is fine with it?”
- ▶ “What things in life does God actually hate that I love / support / justify / whitewash?”
- ▶ “How has my cowardice/unfaith kept me silent in times when God called?”
- ▶ “What does it truly mean to have Christ as the Sovereign Lord of Life... what more is this to change in me?”
- ▶ “God being the potter, me being the clay... what more is to be molded and shaped to more conform to the character of Christ?”

Friends these are hard questions with which to wrestle. In a culture that gives lip service to value inclusivity above all else, what does it mean to begin to see that God actually isn't “inclusive” of all things (read the prophets) nor is Jesus “inclusive” of all people (many walked away from him... he let them go)?

In a climate of values and ethics being cut wholesale away from notions of objective truth or God as the root of moral decision making, what does it mean to stand where God stands and to speak what God speaks? When examining my own conscience will I have the courage to look deeply enough to find the corners where my own sin resides, where my own doubts have lodged, where my own unfaith has left despair in residence? In thinking about “church” and my role as pastor am I prepared to receive God's rebuke and correction for ways I have fallen short of God's aims... will I have the courage and strength of faith to walk new paths of God's directing as he provides?

I do not have answers to all these and questions like them. I suspect that if you've read this in the spirit in which I am sharing it... such that my questions may give rise to some of your own... that neither do you. What I do know though is that God is with you and with me in times of renovation and renewal. God is the author of what might be well called “divine discontent” and in that I am and would encourage you to pray... read scripture... pray some more.... talk with your brothers and sisters in faith inviting them into discernment with you.... And pray some more. Jesus is faithfully with you... He has promised himself to you. Lets together trust him as we wonder, question, and walk wherever he leads.

Pray with me...

God we seek to trust you today. Lead us as you will. Open us to your desires for us and for the world around us. Jesus come to us and show us our way. Holy Spirit grant us the faith to trust God above all things and to walk in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior. May our lives be a reflection of your glory. May your kingdom come through us as well. Amen

Peace to you all
revEric

2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1	2
3 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	4 Independence Day! Holiday. Office Closed.  INDEPENDENCE Day	5 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 7-9 p Boy Scouts	6 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 No Adult Bible Study	7 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 9:30-12:00 Good Neighbors 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	8 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	9 10:00a—2:00p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room)
10 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Gather Bible Study 11:30-2:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	11 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 7:00p AA	12 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 7-9 p Boy Scouts	13 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 10:00a Adult Bible Study 7:00p Special Council / Congregation Mtg	14 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 9:30-12:00 Good Neighbors 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	15 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 1 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	16 10:00a—2:00p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room) Scout Troop #422 Service Project
17 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>I Love to Tell the Story-</i> <i>Mark Knutson</i> AUG NEWS Article Due!	18 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7:00p AA	19 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7-9 p Boy Scouts	20 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 10:00a Adult Bible Study	21 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 9:30-12:00 Good Neighbors 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	22 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7:00-9:00p Theater Group (Youth Room)	23 10:00a—2:00p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room)
24 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 Gather Bible Study 11:30-2:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	25 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7:00p AA	26 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7-9 p Boy Scouts	27 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 10:00a Adult Bible Study	28 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 9:30-12:00 Good Neighbors 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room)	29 8:00a-12:30p Acorn Montessori Summer School Session 2 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room)	30 10:00a—2:00p Facility Use: Theater Group (Youth Room) 3:30p Acres of Diamonds Potluck Picnic at Wooden Cross
30 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	31 7:00p AA					