



Wooden Cross Newsletter

October, 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

"DO NOT BOW..."

Dear Children of God,

In the book of Daniel (Chapter 3 if you are curious) we read an account of a king setting up a statue with a standing order that upon command all would bow and worship this as an idol... a god to be revered... a god "controlled" by the one who set it up, and who gate-keeps the command to worship.

It's an ancient story that is repeated down through time. As such, it has as much ability to be repeated in our time and amongst us as any narrative from history does. Like the proverbial "frog in the pot" unable to perceive the rising temperature until far too late. We may not be well able to discern how heat would be applied by a NON-Christian faith until the idol is well in place and the decree to "all bow or else" has gone forth.

Make no mistake, when issued this decree demands your fidelity lest it deem it necessary to destroy you, your livelihood, your family, your friendships... all based upon your willingness to bow...

... or not.

Do not bow.

Daniel's 3 friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (more commonly remembered by the names "gifted" them by their Babylonian enslavers—Shadrach, Mischak, and Abednego—were faced with the command to bow lest they lose their lives. And yet they could not. For to bow to the false humanist god (idol) would be to cost them so much more... their fidelity and faithfulness to God, maker and sustainer of their lives.



To bow would be to deny their fidelity and trust in God, and their understanding of their proper given role in God's great creation. For to bow to an idol as though god, to obey a mortal authority to the disobedience of God's sovereignty, would be to relinquish their created gifted humanity by God and trade it for something far less... something wrought by human will and hands rather than Divine action and initiative.

In this way they are being tempted to fall in like-manner to Adam and Eve from the very beginning.

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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

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.



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

AUG	Week 1:	\$3,060	
	Week 2:	\$2,710	
	Week 3:	\$5,373	
	Week 4:	<u>\$3,711</u>	
		\$14,854	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,714

SEP	Week 1:	\$2,875	
	Week 2:	\$2,700	
	Week 3:	<u>\$5,171</u>	
		\$10,746	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,582

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.

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!



THE GREAT WASHINGTON SHAKE-OUT!

To serve others during a regional crisis, such as an earthquake, People need to take time now to prepare their family for such an emergency. October is a good time for each family to get their homes and animals, vehicle backpacks, family provisions and medications ready to survive with little support for three months.

Churches, schools and families are also invited to participate in the **Great Washington Shake-Out Drill** on **Thursday, October 20, 2021, at 10:20 AM**.

This drill means that wherever you are—at home, at work, at school, anywhere—you should *Drop, Cover, and Hold On* as if there were a major earthquake occurring at that very moment. Visit the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness website to help prepare a Family Emergency Communications Plan: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html>

Wooden Cross is a Red Cross emergency shelter which will serve the community should there be a major earthquake in our area.

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

The difference being that the garden tempter played to willfulness, while the king in the narrative was playing a more overt power play pitting fear of repercussion against trust-filled fidelity. Or to say it another way... self-preservation against self-sacrifice. And their choice...

They did not bow...

Many of you I have no doubt have heard much made of our society being a pluralist one... a society of many faith commitments and professions all cohabitating under one "roof." I do not question that, nor do I see much wrong with what is actually a natural state of affairs.

What I see though is that while there are many visible professions of faith, there is a yet more subtle "underground" faith that is rising ascendant that much like this king's idol is being placed before us with an ever increasing demand to bow or else...or else your friendships will be jeopardized... or else your livelihood will be reduced... or else your families will be divided... or else you will be placed on the "wrong side of history" to be ostracized or eliminated if not able to be rehabilitated or reeducated.

The astute and students of history are going to recognize these terms as being closely connected to practices that have been employed in other times and places preceding our own... you are not wrong. And yet it is the prophetic book of Daniel that should have us unsurprised when this ancient story with its insidious demand comes before us in our time.

There are decrees to "bow" being issued politically, culturally, as regards sexuality, as well as identity—to name just a few of the arenas where these decrees are pouring out. Each one presenting a place where you either acquiesce "or else." Each as an idol that if one would only bow, then we would draw one step closer to the end of history and the Utopian society that will arise at the end of all things.

Bowing is such a "little thing"... it might actually prove that you are not "backward" or "out of touch with the times" or "modern." The construct sometimes offers compromise in that you don't have to bow "privately" but just in the public sphere, you

do so and that will be "enough." And for those who will not bow to the newly minted cultural idols and graven images constructed and erected before you... well there can be a fiery furnace for you, and that will move you out of the way anyway.

So playing to either willful temptation towards benefit on one end—or should that be insufficient, towards fear of repercussion on another—people of faith are being commanded to bow and leave behind archaic notions of God and God's order of creation and adopt a more "educated and enlightened" human construct.

Do not bow... my friends. Let your knee never touch the ground for any idol placed before you. God alone is to be worshiped and praised. God alone is who sets creation in order... no human... no human institution... no power... no principality... nothing else has God's authority to set the stars in their courses or call you into being and keep you in life.

Worship God and God alone. Bow to God and God alone. Walk with Jesus and remember that He even before Pilate... even under threat of death... Jesus...

Did not bow.

May God grant you stiff knees, and the courage like iron to never bow lest it be in God's holy presence. In God's presence alone let us join heaven and earth and all of creation in bowing to our Lord of Lord and King of Kings!

Amen and Peace

revEric

PHANTOM OF THE AUCTION

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

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!

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.

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



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.

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.

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!

Peg Skiftenes
Deb Schuldts

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

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.camplutherwood.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/>



2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	3 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	4 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	5 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 5:00-9:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary & Fellowship)	6 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 7:00p Facility Use: Theater Group 7:30p Choir	7 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori	8
9 Stewardship Kickoff! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	10 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	11 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	12 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 7:00p Church Council	13 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir	14 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori	15
16 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch November Newsletter Articles Due!	17 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	18 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	19 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 7:00p Worship Comm.	20 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 10:20a Great Washington Shakeout! 7:30p Choir	21 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori	22 1:00-5:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital Sylvan Lumsden
23 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Guest Accompanist LWR Quilt Display	24 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	25 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	26 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	27 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir	28 8:50a-2:50p Acorn Montessori	29
30 Reformation Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Quilt Blessing	31					