

Wooden Cross Newsletter

August, 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

Dearest friends in Christ,

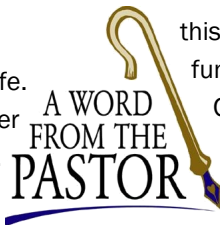
August is a curious month in church life. Somewhere within this last “hurrah” of summer thoughts of impending Fall begin to take shape. I’ve always kind of marveled at how this month has such a unique life of its own.

It is summer which means it is a last opportunity to vacation, and yet it takes on such an air of anticipation—a return to school for children and families, the turning of the leaves, a relief from heat with the promise of cool crisper days on the horizon. Whatever marks the month it strikes me as largely a month marked in transitions. Even in the church, August tends to be a month pregnant with the anticipation of things to come... Advent is on the near horizon... people are tending to return, and so ministry often takes an “uptick” whether in worship life or simply “energy levels” tend to advance.

While you are pondering the transitions August brings into life, indulge me in offering you something to ponder, which I pray could be part of helping transition Wooden Cross as well.

I’ve been pondering thoughts of what it means to be a people “connected” to God and what it means that God is the one who makes that connection. Everything in our life of faith is built upon this foundation. It is so fundamental that everything else in faith stands and falls upon it. The line of “maturity” and “immaturity” in faith is crossed on whether one trusts God as the author of faith and all that this entails.

What has been noteworthy as I reflect upon this foundation is how a) fundamentally Scripture speaks of



this reality in both Old and New Testament; b) fundamentally the first several centuries of the Christian Church taught, confessed, and remained grounded in this reality; c) how this was fundamentally the recovery of truth the entirety of the Reformation was historically grounded; and d) how controversial this idea is in a modern church and culture that is built upon the ideas of “agency” and “individualism.”

Now hang with me for a bit longer... what could this possibly have to do with “transitions” and such???

Think about it, what does something like “coming to church” (or as we tend to speak in August/September “return to church”) possibly mean when seen either from the grounded place of God connecting with us, verses an understanding that uses personal agency and individual choice as our interpretive lens?

Continued on Page 3



Pastor's Message	1 & 3
Stewardship Reminder	2
New Percussion Ensemble Opportunity	4
Wooden Cross YouTube Streaming	4
Annual Dinner Auction	5
Adult Bible Study	5
August Calendar	Insert



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

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

2023 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.

2023 Local Giving Budget

Weekly Average Goal: \$4,649

JUN	Week 1:	\$3,748	
	Week 2:	\$2,863	
	Week 3:	\$3,660	
	Week 4:	<u>\$3,502</u>	
		\$13,773	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,443
JUL	Week 1:	\$2,790	
	Week 2:	\$1,865	
	Week 3:	<u>\$6,901</u>	
		\$11,556	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,852

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 / Interim Music Director Seung Lee
 Special Music Ensemble Musicians
 Altar GuildSally Simpson

P A S T O R ' S M E S S A G E

(continued from page 1)

From a perspective of God's choice and agency, God "connecting" with us... "coming to church" takes on the emphasis of coming to receive what is provided by God. Faith is created in us from nothing, by a Word that speaks it into being (exactly like the idea in Genesis 1 that God literally speaks Creation into being out of nothing at all!!!)

Everything in worship is designed to give to the worshiper Christ himself—Confession, Absolution, Word, Preaching, Communion, even song. These are all gifts given by God to create in you the gift of Faith which is the gift of redemption and life itself as we are brought to know our identity in Christ Jesus himself. The life found in church itself is literally Jesus' own life being gifted to us... His righteousness... His character... His faith... all gifts being conveyed because it is God's good and perfect Will to bring these about for you that you would be blessed!!!

But what does something like "going to church" mean from a perspective grounded in something more like individual agency or choice? The action of "going" becomes something of our work, something acted upon ("I don't feel like going... its just too much effort"). It becomes something that our commercialized culture adores, a function of will and subject to marketing (does it appeal to you?). It becomes too often a function of the personalities involved (I do/not like the pastor... I do/not like the people there) or the methods of worship (It's too loud... too boring... too repetitive... too etc.)

Perhaps worst of all is the way we, who are enamored with personal choice and agency, can ultimately deceive ourselves into believing that we can receive God's gifts through the created order (nature, persons, experiences, self created spiritual practices) rather than from the Creator himself. This IS what Scripture comments on as the very nature of "idolatry" that is perhaps the most fundamental of the ways sin is rampant amongst God's people.

Why bring this up?

Friends, as you are thinking about the transitions August alludes to and Fall brings about... reflect upon why you attend church. Reflect upon why you would invite another to come with you. When you come what would change for you personally should you grow in clarity to see your presence as a means to receive God's riches and blessing poured out? If you were to invite another, what would it mean to invite them to the place where it is actually the Bread of Life and the Living Water that is being gifted to each and all as we worship and grow?

How does one's passion for the Body of Christ only amplify as we deepen in appreciation to the truth that we are each one interconnected not out of our own feeble choosing, but out of God's graciousness and gift? Who amongst your friends and family and coworkers could use what God alone provides? Whose grandchildren might discover a deeper truth in God than they will ever find out in the messed up culture we inhabit today? What weary souls could find rest if we could be moved to invite them to receive what God provides?

As I see August as a month of "pondering" what is coming shortly... Friends, I invite you to ponder what God is gifting you and prayerfully begin to wonder with me what the Fall brings us in God's world and in God's mission BECAUSE we are the recipients of Life in Baptism, the Word, and fed graciously by God at the table and in worship.

Much has been given us... how are we to then go?

By God's call let us INVITE... let us SERVE... let us PROCLAIM, and may the "seeds" given by God be scattered far and wide by we who have received so much!

Peace in Christ,

revEric

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

NEW PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE!

New and experienced musicians are invited and encouraged to be a part of the new Wooden Cross Percussion Ensemble. The music will be upbeat and lively!



We are having a Percussion Jam Session on Thursday, August 10 at 7:00 PM to have fun trying out different instruments and playing some music together. If you are interested in playing handbells, chimes, drums, etc. in this upcoming jam session, please contact Jone Vrhel at 425-205-1636. Rehearsals following the jam session will be on Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 PM, beginning August 17.

Come and join us, and enrich our music ministry during Sunday worship!

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.



WOODEN CROSS LIVESTREAM

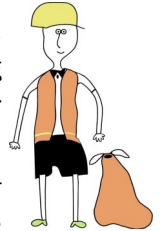


Wooden Cross church services are now available on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. You can now watch our Sunday morning worship services online, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services. Visit us at our church website—WeAreWoodenCross.org, and click on the streaming link. Be sure to “subscribe” 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 as we Connect, Grow in faith, and Serve in our communities, following Jesus and helping others do the same!

ADOPT-A-ROAD THANK YOU!

A big THANK YOU! To Rich Madsen, Peter Marschalk, Sally Simpson, Peg Skiftenes and Jone Vrhel for participating in the Adopt-a-Road Cleanup on Sunday, July 9. The five-person road crew worked for 2+ hours and collected about 15 bags of trash.



Keeping our adopted road clean is another way Wooden Cross demonstrates caring for the community and the environment. Thank you for participating!

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.

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!



SUMMER MUSIC

Wooden Cross members and friends are inviting to share their talents as musicians, vocalists and performers during the worship services throughout the Summer months, beginning in mid-May.



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

ANNUAL AUCTION!

You are invited to join us for the Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction. This family-friendly event is a wonderful occasion to relax, visit, and enjoy a meal with friends. This lively evening of spirited bidding, food and music is also a great opportunity for you to invite your neighbors, relatives and friends for an evening of fun and "fun"draising. There will be a Silent and a Live Auction with variety of items for ALL ages! The November Auction date will be announced soon!



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!

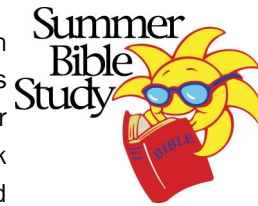
Bonnie Madsen and Peter & Karen Marschalk
2023 Auction Co-Coordinators

You can help by donating items! There are many ways of donating. Consider re-gifting a new item; contact businesses you have a relationship with for a donation or gift certificate; consider offering a service, or baking a special dish. Donation forms will be available on the entrance table.

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

WEDNESDAY 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.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

462,262 QUILTS & KITS IN 19 COUNTRIES		COUNTRY	SHIPPING WAREHOUSE	QUILTS	BLANKETS	SCHOOL KITS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	FABRIC KITS	MASKS
		ANGOLA	Maryland	18,480			9,890	4,950	1,230	
		ARMENIA	Maryland	12,375					1,230	
		BURKINA FASO	Minnesota	14,760		4,480	9,100	4,480	4,100	4,400
		DIJIBOUTI	Minnesota	10,080		15,360				
		DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Minnesota			15,360				
		GEORGIA	Maryland	36,960						
		GUATEMALA	Minnesota	7,200			21,700	7,200		
		HAITI	Minnesota	8,640			2,800			
		JORDAN	Maryland	7,260		5,500				
		LEBANON	Maryland	15,180		8,000	6,900	4,200	1,230	
		MALI	Maryland	22,440		5,000	4,830	3,150	205	6,250
		NIGER	Minnesota	11,160		5,760		3,840		4,400
		PERU	Minnesota	15,840			7,000			
		POLAND	Maryland	11,520		2,500	7,360	3,480		
		SIERRA LEONE	Minnesota	10,800			7,000	3,840		4,400
		SOUTH SUDAN	Maryland	3,630	1,650	13,000	3,220	2,100	820	6,250
		SYRIA	Maryland			6,500	5,908			
		TANZANIA	Minnesota	7,920		6,400		6,080		
		UKRAINE	Maryland	6,072		3,000	8,280	3,240		6,250
TOTAL				220,317	1,650	90,860	94,060	46,560	8,815	31,950

This shipping information is from LWR's 2022 fiscal year (Oct 2021 - Sept 2022).

Wooden Cross August News, 2023

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7-9 p Boy Scouts	2 No Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	3	4	5
Pastor on Vacation July 24—August 14						
6 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Summer Worship Service <i>Linda Griffith, Guest Preacher</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	7 <i>Staff Vacation Day. Office Closed</i> 7:00p AA	8 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	9 No Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	10 11:00-3:00 Quilters 7:00p Percussion Ensemble Jam Session	11	12
Pastor on Vacation July 24—August 14						
13 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Peter Marschalk, Guest Preacher/Leader</i> <i>Acres of Diamonds Special Presentation</i>	14 <i>Staff Vacation Day. Office Closed</i> 7:00p AA	15 7-9 p Boy Scouts	16 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	17 4:00-5:00p Percussion Ensemble	18	19
Pastor on Vacation July 24—August 14						
20 <i>New Member Sunday!</i> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch SEP NEWS Article Duel	21 <i>Staff Vacation Day. Office Closed</i> 7:00p AA	22 7-9 p Boy Scouts	23 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	24 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Percussion Ensemble	25	26
27 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	28 <i>Staff Vacation Day. Office Closed</i> 7:00p AA	29 7-9 p Boy Scouts	30 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	31 4:00-5:00p Percussion Ensemble		