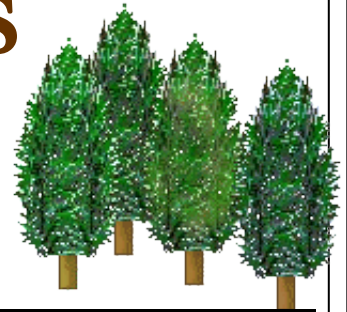
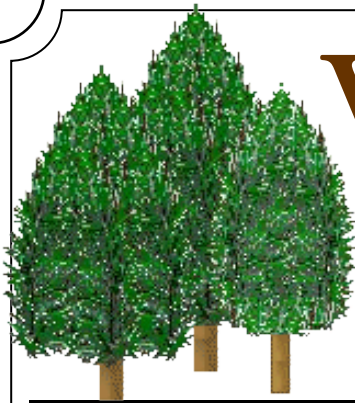


# Wooden Cross Newsletter

May, 2025



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

### New Life: Now What?

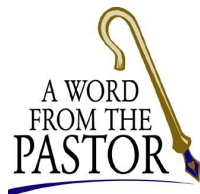
Brothers and Sisters, beloved children of God

Easter is the celebration of new life for God's people after a season to discover those things in us best left in the desert to die even as we are called to discover what in us is being renewed and brought to life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Throughout Lent we were continually called to renewal even as called to introspection and repentance. The focus throughout the season is to bring us in preparation to encounter the resurrection and it's import more fully, for how can we truly grasp the depth of Christ's action lest we come face to face with the depth of what he must conquer on our behalf? And conquer he does and has... we are a new creation in him. So as a new creation... now what?

What will you do with that new life that we are called to renew daily through dying to ourselves and rising anew in Christ Jesus our Lord? It's a sound question even if it may make us a bit uncomfortable in the asking. Throughout Scripture we encounter God's people being gifted by God with life, resurrection, renewal, forgiveness and God's gracious providence and then promptly falling flat on their faces again and again and again. The amazing grace of God is that even as we fall, God is in the process of raising us up as His Holy Spirit continues to work upon us to deliver to us faith that would receive God as God and learn that our lives might reflect Him in the world.

We were not made by God to fall, yet it by God alone that we don't. So as those who are newly created by God's grace through faith in Jesus what now will we



do with his gift of life? To whom can you share this gift? How might you plant the seeds of life in friends and family and neighbors and whomever God provides opportunity to scatter? How might God's overwhelming gift of resurrection begin to re-frame how you will use the other things provided by God... your time... your energy... your skills... your finances?

As a church how might God be moving us to share what God is making new in us daily? This is the heart of the Easter Good news that in Christ Jesus God is resurrecting all people through faith in Jesus.

Easter brings us face to face with what Jesus overcomes—sin and death... AND more gloriously still, it brings us face to face with all that God is renewing and re-creating in us as we too are raised to new life in Jesus. Let us receive this new life and then let us with joy share it ... never to squander the opportunities God is delivering to us as his new creation.

Blessed Easter and new life!

RevEric

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- Peggy Reiber ..... President
- Shawn Quinn ..... Vice President
- Carolyn Gross ..... Secretary/Treasurer
- Jone Vrhel ..... Council Member
- Nancy VanDalsem ..... Council Member
- Art Hammersberg ..... Council Member
- Peg Skiftenes ..... Council Member

**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.*

**2025 Local Giving Budget**

**Weekly Average Goal: \$4,812**

<b>MAR</b>	Week 1:	\$2,760
	Week 2:	\$4,546
	Week 3:	\$5,999
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,383</u>
		<b>\$15,688</b>

**Weekly Average: \$3,922**

<b>APR</b>	Week 1:	\$1,865
	Week 2:	<u>\$7,655</u>
		<b>\$9,520</b>

**Weekly Average: \$4,760**

**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](mailto:woodencrosslc@gmail.com)

Website ..... [www.WeAreWoodenCross.org](http://www.WeAreWoodenCross.org)

**Pastor Office Hours ..... M-W: 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 ..... Linda Griffith

### FAMILY SUMMER KICKOFF EVENT!

The Wooden Cross family and friends are invited to a **Family Summer Kickoff** for our neighbors and friends on **Saturday June 28**, beginning at **4:00 PM!**



Join us in fellowship with our neighbors and community. We will provide hot dogs, drinks and chips. Potluck finger food to share is welcomed from the community! The outdoor event will feature lively music by Marilyn and the G Strings! (*funded by the Christian Connection Committee*); and lots of family friendly games and activities such as cornhole, badminton, face painting, bouncy houses, and anything you can bring along.

Sign ups begin in May. This event is coordinated by the Christian Connection Committee.

### 2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 2025 Synod Assembly will be **Friday-Saturday, May 16-17, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM**. This will be a two-day event at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center in Everett.



We gather under the theme **Woven Into God's Story**, Gal 3:26-29. Participants will gather as a synod for worship, hear reports from our synod and churchwide leaders, hold elections, discuss resolutions, celebrate ministry anniversaries, share in conversation around our theme of being woven into God's story, and a few fun surprises.

Offering gathered up at the assembly will be share evenly with these four ministries: Lutheran Disaster Response; Bishop's Caring Fund - supports health and well-being of rostered leaders and candidates; the Synod's LIVE Project - lay ministry formation; and Synod Emerging & Strategic Ministries.

Pastor Eric Griffith and Peggy Reiber will be attending as Wooden Cross representatives at the Synod Assembly.

### SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Wooden Cross members and friends are invited 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.

### SPRING COLLECTION



For the Spring Ingathering this year, the Christian Connection Committee will focus on collecting items for local refugees—laundry products, dish soap, face soap, bar soap, and shampoo.

These are items that families are unable to get from various food banks or SNAP programs. The ingathering will begin after Easter. Thank you for your support.

### ONLINE WORSHIP



Wooden Cross church services are available on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. You can watch our Sunday morning worship services online, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services.

Visit our church website—[WeAreWoodenCross.org](http://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. Join us as we Connect, Grow in faith, and Serve in our communities, following Jesus and helping others do the same!

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

**CHURCH RECYCLING AND ENERGY USE UPDATE**

The Property Committee is partnering with Christian Response Committee to unify our efforts on behalf of this congregation to improve communication on our recycling program. Our work together will improve our offerings, reduce cost to our budgets and strengthen our commitment to be better stewards of waste.

In the coming weeks there will be announcements in the bulletins and newsletters, and brief temple talks reviewing what we can and cannot recycle in our blue bins. As an example of our improved recycling efforts, beginning on April 23 we changed the pickup with Waste Management for our 96-gallon (Blue #2) recycling container from weekly to biweekly. This adjustment to our recycling protocol will save us over \$3,000 annually from our current practice! By making this change we need to remember:

Rule #1: Recycle only bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard! Breakdown all cardboard boxes flat, add only wastepaper, CLEAN tin foil and rinsed out metal, glass and aluminum cans or containers. Plastic bottles only with the “chasing arrows” of 1 or 2. Place any other plastic items in the regular trash in the 96-gallon container and indoor bins (Green #1) for our weekly

pickup service by Waste Management. A detailed list of recyclable residential items can be found on the Waste Management website at WM.com.

Rule # 2: Keep food and liquid out of our blue recycling bins. We will continue to aggressively compost all food waste, green items like branches sticks and plant trimmings and spent flowers, in the outdoor gray 96-gallon container gray and indoor brown bins (# 3) through Cedar Grove Composting. *(Cedar Grove charges half the price that WM would charge for this weekly service.)*

The Property Committee is concerned about the rapidly increasing cost of natural gas and electricity as we run our present church facility. We are seeing historical increases in our utility operating costs. Our committee will be reviewing the church’s entire energy cost use going forward, looking into investing in new thermostats that can be programed separately within our current 6-furnace system to reduce heating costs when we are not using the space for church or rental activity. We plan to share the details of any changes we plan to make, and possibly re-evaluate rental costs for groups using the church for events.

The Christian Response Committee is continuing to find new avenues for Styrofoam recycling, battery and spent LED lights, bottle corks and other products to build upon the idea of being Good Stewards of Gods Green earth. Join in our efforts to repurpose more for less!

—Wooden Cross Lutheran Church Property and Christian Response Committees

**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!

**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.



**JOIN THE CHOIR!**

It’s time to make some music! And the Wooden Cross Choir is ready to start singing again! Organist and Music Director, Seung Lee will lead the choir.



Why not add more music to your life and consider joining the choir! All voices welcome—particularly sopranos! The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on **Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.**

Wooden Cross May News, 2025

2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  4:00-5:00p Handbells  7:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	3  3:00-7:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Lumsden)
4 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	5 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7:00p AA	6 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7-9 p Boy Scouts	7 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study  2:00p Uke Group	8 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters  4:00-5:00p Handbells  7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> Mother's Day Tea	10 9:00a WGC Annual Plant Sale Woodinville Alliance Church
11 Mother's Day! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	12 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7:00p AA	13 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7-9 p Boy Scouts	14 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group  7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	15 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	16 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	17 8:30-4:00p NWWA Synod Assembly Edward D. Hansen Conference Center, Everett
18 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 3:00-7:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Lumsden)  JUN NEWS Article Due!	19 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7:00p AA	20 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7-9 p Boy Scouts	21 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group  7:00 p Worship Committee	22 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  11:00-3:00 Quilters	23 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	24
25 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 1:30-4:00p Facility Use: ESUPA	26 memorial DAY  Memorial Day Holiday. Office Closed. No Acom Montessori  7:00p AA	27 Staff Vacation Day 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>  7-9 p Boy Scouts	28 Staff Vacation Day 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 5:00-8:00p Facility Use: Violin Rehearsal (Peterson) Sanctuary	29 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	30 No Acom Montessori	31 12:30-4:00p Facility Use: Violin Recital & Reception (Peterson) Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall