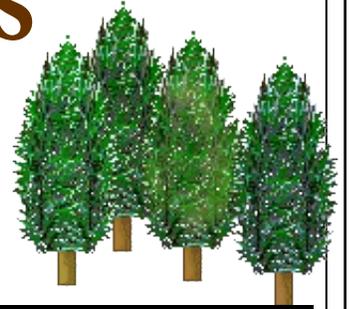


Wooden Cross Newsletter



January, 2023

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

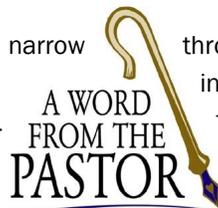
Jesus said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door..." ~ Luke 13:24a

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord,

I've been thinking a great deal of late on how easy it is to put "trust" in assumptions about God, more than listening to God as revealed in Jesus. The verse above offers a great case study to think this through. If you read the context that just precedes it, this word is offered by Jesus in response to a question asked as to whether "many" or "a few" would be saved. Jesus follows it with the rather unsettling word that "many... will try to enter and will not be able."

Jesus offers a clear warning that there is something to seeking God, and not just taking for granted some notion that "I'm fine" or some such word of self justification. But do we seek to self-justify? I'd suggest the answer to that is "often" and "continually" given the evidence of how often God's Word points people back toward God and how often humanity walks away far from God. It's almost as though we are the "prodigal" ones who insist on living in a far country doing as we please as did that seminal figure in yet another of Jesus' best known parables.

Jesus speaks this warning into a cultural context where people just "knew" that they were "in" with God and, provided they followed the traditions and rules handed down from their religious authorities, then righteousness was secure and their place with God assured. A confidence built upon human effort, following human traditions even religious in nature, Jesus cuts



through this confidence like a knife and leaves people in a place where once again they (and we) are forced to think through the nature of their (and our) relationship with God.

Is our confidence and assurance built on knowing God or in knowing something "about" God? In this passage from Luke the key to "entering" that narrow door is whether one is "KNOWN" by the master of the house. Knowledge "about" God is not going to cut it here. In fact in another place in scripture what we learn (perhaps alarmingly) is that even demons "know about" God and Christ, so "knowing about Jesus" is nothing more than what they possess. In this teaching Jesus talks about how "knowing about" Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is a given even as it is also insufficient to gain entry.

I fear that we as modern Christians "know about"...

Continued on Page 4



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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.



2022 Stewardship



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: \$4,611

NOV	Week 1:	\$4,124	
	Week 2:	\$3,960	
	Week 3:	\$3,439	
	Week 4:	<u>\$4,017</u>	
		\$15,539	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,885

DEC	Week 1:	\$10,345	
	Week 2:	\$4,795	
	Week 3:	<u>\$6,350</u>	
		\$21,490	
	Weekly Average:		\$7,163

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

ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

The Wooden Cross Annual Meeting and Brunch will be on Sunday, January 22, 2023.

We encourage you to attend this important annual event.

This is our family remembrance and celebration time! It is also our time to elect our Parish Family Leaders. You are missed when not present.



The agenda for the Annual Meeting is prepared by the Executive Committee (Officers) and the Church Council, in accordance with the Constitution. The agenda will be posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting and closed 10 days prior to the meeting.

At this date, the agenda will include:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Secretary's Report
3. Elections for Council Officers, Council & Committee Members
4. Pastor's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Ministry and Mission Committees Reports
7. President's Report
8. Adoption of 2023 Budget
9. Resolutions (if any)
10. Election Results
11. Recognitions
12. Benediction

The Annual Report will be available at Church on Sunday, January 15, and from the Church Office during the week prior to the **Annual Meeting**, on **Sunday, January 22**.

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!



ANNUAL MEETING POTLUCK BRUNCH

Bring the family and join us for the Potluck Brunch & Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22, immediately after the Worship Service.



The Brunch is hosted by the Church Council. We encourage you to attend this important annual event. This is our family remembrance and celebration time! It is also our time to elect our Parish Family Leaders. You are missed when not present.

We look forward to seeing at the Annual Meeting

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

New and Continuing Elected Council and Committee Members for 2023 will be commissioned at the worship service on Sunday, January 29.

IT'S TIME TO TACKLE HUNGER!

As we prepare for the Super Bowl Festivities, the youth of our nation are gearing up for **Super Bowl of Caring** on Sunday, February 5. It all began with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."



The youth took the prayer said by Reverend Brad Smith of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina in 1989, and turned Souper Bowl of Caring into a nationwide initiative to mobilize teens to fight hunger and poverty.

Scouts from Troop #422 challenge you to be part of our "team" to stamp out hunger! Our goal is to fill the shelves at the Maltby Food Bank! We need you, to bring your "A" game by donating non-perishable food items or monetary donations. For more information, visit <https://tacklehunger.org/>

So now it is time for you to gear up and make the big play in support of those in need! Thank you for participating in this team effort! Thank you!

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

God...
faith...
traditions...
Jesus...
grace...
hope...
love...

... and a great many other "religious topics" while not paying nearly enough attention to things Jesus says when he references a narrow path that leads to life, rather than something more like a broad cultural highway that leads to death and condemnation.

Knowing and being known by God is everything... it is not an addendum to be tacked onto a life... it is life itself. Knowing and being known by God is ultimately the end for which Jesus died so that we actually could know God as "Father" and be known as "sons and daughters" of God. Knowing and being known by God is that crucial moment when it finally breaks through that when water washed over you and God tells YOU that YOU are "God's own child" that God actually means it and means for you to live intimately together for all time

and...

...when the bread and wine make their way into you and you trust and believe that Jesus is actually coming to you and "FOR" you, that Jesus really is joining himself to you and choosing to abide in you to live intimately together for all time!!

and...

... when Jesus speaks words of warning to break us out of apathy, false hope, and the self-justifications we fall prey to that He is speaking these words in mercy for us, weak as we are, that we might repent of what entraps us and rely ever more deeply upon Him as the source of our life and hope.

I do not call you to know more "about Jesus." I call on you to get to know him and spend time being known by him that your faith will be sound and your hope be assured. Know yourself through his eyes and declarations about you. Rely upon the Master of the narrow door to be your sole hope of admission and take heart in Him and Him alone! Let us no longer fall into the traps of our assumptions about God... Let us return to God and fix our eyes and our ears squarely on Him.

In Christ,

revEric

CHRISTMAS DÉCOR TAKE DOWN

Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, January 3, at 10:00 AM to take down and put away the Christmas tree, decorations and lights. Many volunteers make the task fun and fast. Thank you for helping.



GIVING TREE THANK YOU

Thank you to the Wooden Cross family for your compassion and giving! Your holiday generosity resulted in \$825.00 given for gift cards to support women and children in transitional housing at Acres of Diamonds in Duvall as well as \$1,000.00 for meat certificates; and \$250.00 for gift cards for children and families served by Hope Link; and several individual donations for ELCA Good Gifts meeting personal needs that support life in the U.S. and worldwide.



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.

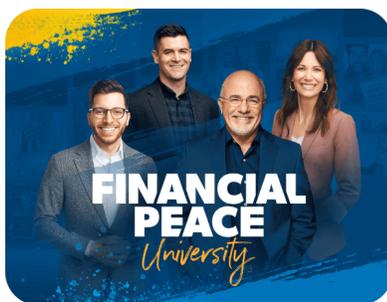


May your gifts of love be a blessing not only to others but also to you during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

—Christian Response Committee

FINANCIAL SERIES COMING IN JANUARY!

This series through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University is a step-by-step plan to win with money. The nine-lesson course teaches people how to save for emergencies, pay off debt fast, spend wisely, and invest for your future.



For over 25 years, Dave Ramsey has been teaching commonsense, biblical money principles that work. Participants will learn the proven plan to pay off debt fast and save more money for their future:

- ▶ Lesson 1—Take control of your money by creating a budget and building your starter emergency fund;
- ▶ Lesson 2—Discover why debt is holding you back from the life you want—and how to pay it off with the debt snowball;

- ▶ Lesson 3—Get ready to handle emergencies worry-free by saving up a fully funded emergency fund;
- ▶ Lesson 4—Here's where your hard work pays off. Learn to build wealth, give generously, and leave a lasting legacy;

- ▶ Lesson 5—Outsmart the marketing tactics trying to bust your budget and gain power over your spending;
- ▶ Lesson 6—Understand the eight types of insurance you actually need (and which ones to avoid);
- ▶ Lesson 7—Ready to build wealth and retire with dignity? Learn how to invest for the future with confidence;
- ▶ Lesson 8—Buying and selling your home, make sure your home's a blessing, not a burden. Discover the right way to rent, sell, buy and refinance;
- ▶ Lesson 9—Generosity is the most fun you can have with money—and it's the ultimate goal of reaching financial peace;

When debt isn't holding you back, nothing can stop you from living the life you dream of. You can get there. You just need a plan that works.

This series will be offered on **nine consecutive Sundays**, beginning **January 8, 2023**, from **11:30 AM-1:00 PM**. The cost is **\$40.00** for class materials (couples can share). Scholarships are available, see Pastor Eric. Sign up today on the narthex bulletin board.

WOODEN CROSS IS NOW STREAMING!



We are pleased to announce that Wooden Cross is now streaming church services live on Sunday mornings on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. Through this channel, you are able to connect online and watch the live stream of our Sunday morning worship services, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services. It's easy to find us, just visit us at our church website—**WeAreWoodenCross.org**, then click on the streaming link. Choosing to subscribe allows you to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later.

This technology allows us 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!

Many thanks to Eric and our eight-member volunteer tech team who are learning how to operate our new audio, video and streaming functions.

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.

With Friends

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL TO SERVE REFUGEES

Lutheran Community Services Northwest helps immigrants and asylum seekers rebuild their lives in a new country and needs your help.



multicultural staff speak many different languages. Many are refugees and immigrants themselves.

We believe in the American dream. That's why we help people who've endured the unimaginable to pursue it. We work with thousands of refugees and immigrants each year to help them rise above their challenges, build upon the strength and courage that got them here, and support their hopes to become vital contributors to our communities.

A new wave of refugees from war-torn Ukraine is starting to land in the United States. Meantime, tens of thousands of evacuees from Afghanistan are in the midst of being resettled in the US. This response is an expression of our collective responsibility to the Afghan people after 20 years of occupation and the pullout of US troops in August.

We equip refugees and immigrants with the skills, resources and support they need to live fulfilling lives. We offer mental health counseling in different languages, help them learn English, find a place to live and work, gain citizenship, and become productive members in their Northwest communities. Our

Here is how you can help. Visit their website at: <https://lcsnw.org/refugee-response/> and click to see the Amazon wish list, an easy-peasy way to help.

We all will be enriched by the strength and diversity of new neighbors who triumph over adversity.

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.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/>

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>2 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00 Christmas Décor Take Down 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm) 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 8:00-12:00 Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room)</p>	<p>5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</p>	<p>7 9:00-10:00a Tech Training Workshop</p>
<p>8 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop</p>	<p>9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p AA</p>	<p>10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm) 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response</p>	<p>11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p Church Council</p>	<p>12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir</p>	<p>13 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</p>	<p>14 6:00-9:00p Facility Use: Kruise Recital</p>
<p>15 Annual Reports Available 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop FEB NEWS Article Due!</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Office Closed. <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p AA</p>	<p>17 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm) 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p Worship Comm</p>	<p>19 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Meeting 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop</p>	<p>23 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p AA</p>	<p>24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm) 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room)</p>	<p>26 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir</p>	<p>27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p Facility Use: Scout Overnight Begins (Mike Cato)</p>	<p>28 5:00p Facility Use: Scout Overnight Ends (Mike Cato)</p>
<p>29 Installation of Elected Leadership 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop</p>	<p>30 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Room) 7:00p AA</p>	<p>31 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 6:30-8:30p Facility Use: Theater (Youth Rm) 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>				