



Wooden Cross Newsletter

December, 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

Advent is watching for the God “who was, who is, and who is to come” embodied in Jesus as our Good Shepherd and whose name is above all names!!!

Dear friends in Christ... how will you wait this season?

Will you wait in long lines... will you wait in anticipation of shipments... will you wait for calls from loved one's near and far?

Will you wait for the day to watch your favorite Christmas movie (most I know have at least one, some of us have a bunch more than just one!)?

Will you wait mourning the dark and wet season longing for days of more sunshine and warmth?

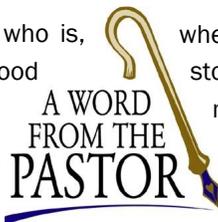
Will you wait for the holiday sale / Black Friday / Cyber Monday or whatever the heck it is we call these things these days?

How will you wait?

Does “how you wait” have a relationship with “who is awaited?”

I've got a few suggestions that may help bring your “how” and “who”: a bit more closely together. For as the body of Christ, we are called ever to be watchful for our Lord and Savior, our Bright Morning Star. These aren't overly complex and yet there is also a discipline involved. Go with me here (these ideas are adaptations form a book called **Advent Conspiracy** by McKinley, Seay and Holder)

A) **Worship Fully**—Make a discipline of more fully engaging in Scripture, prayer, and weekly worship



whether in person or online. Let God's narrative and story mark your daily rhythm. This season is one of many competing stories with many voices seeking to supplant a specific focus on God's story unfolding in Jesus to something more generally “holiday” or “festive” or “happy.” Immersion into God's deep patterns of faith and life will ground you in the deepest of joy and the depth of love unfolding. Grounding in a full worship of God is what leads us into a place of what Augustine called “rest” a place that our hearts can never find until we find it in God himself.

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**CHURCH
COUNCIL**

- 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



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Come and celebrate with us at our special Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24.

2:30 PM

7:30 PM

Featuring special music by the vocal and handbell choirs



YEAR-END GIFTS

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Wooden Cross this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions. If you would like to make a **special year-end contribution**, please send it (or drop it off) to the Church by **December 31**. 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

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: \$4,334

OCT	Week 1:	\$3,231	
	Week 2:	\$2,733	
	Week 3:	\$9,623	
	Week 4:	\$4,264	
	Week 5:	<u>\$5,240</u>	
		\$25,091	
	Weekly Average:		\$5,018

NOV	Week 1:	\$3,920	
	Week 2:	\$3,895	
	Week 3:	<u>\$2,170</u>	
		\$9,985	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,328

Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

By Constitution the Church Council announces this first public notice of **Wooden Cross' Annual Meeting** on **Sunday, January 22, 2023**. The Church Council will host a brunch after the worship service. The **Annual Meeting** will follow the brunch.



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 shall 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**.

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.



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

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!



CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

B) Spend Less—Whenever it was that our culture decided to make Advent a long shopping trip, that pattern is now well established. Consider the discipline of intentionally spending less as an act of worship. Scripture speaks of times of “fasting” as a way to seek drawing near to God. Spending less when the culture is screaming for you spend “more” can be a fast when engaged intentionally and with a desire to have it become worshipful.

C) Give More—We live in a hurting world. God’s people are called to respond. It’s quite simple when we think about it. In this “waiting” season allow God to guide you to those whose lives you can bless and then give. Time, energy, attention... these are all blessings God bestows upon us. As you wait... give.

D) Love All—We each harbor animosities in our hearts though God has called us to be at peace and to make peace in this world. The greatest peace of all comes through knowing Jesus and having his hand reshape our lives, our attitudes, and our habits. As

Jesus loves, so we are to love. Perhaps this call to love is the greatest “reshaping” of all. As you wait continue to give over to God any and all you are struggling to love and perhaps more important still is to repentantly give over the hardness harbored in our own hearts that becomes that stumbling block to love.

Friends, none of this is complex and yet I’d suggest it could be profound. To take up the deep call “to wait” in God Way of Advent is to reconnect with God Himself and His rhythm that moves despite our culture’s clamor and noise. Dwell in God in this time of waiting. Dwell in the One who chose to come and dwell with us. Let his hand shape you in the time of “waiting” that is Advent. Hear his Word. Be moved by His Spirit. Dwell among his people. AND

Wait well my friends.

Joining you in the waiting and the watching... may peace be with you All!

RevEric

FRIENDS IN MINISTRY

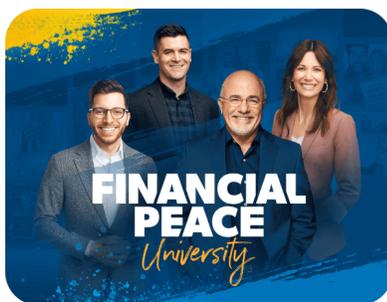
The Wooden Cross congregation works together with others for sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all. Our ministry and mission partners include:

- 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.fossicare.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/>



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.

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.

GOOD NEIGHBORS FOOD BANK

The Good Neighbors Association (GNA)—a member of the Washington Food Coalition—teams with contributing grocery and food service stores to find beneficial uses for excess products. The GNA serves those in the community who are missed by other distribution systems, or do not qualify for public services.

Up to 300 families are fed every day. In addition to feeding individual families, the GNA supplies groceries to various charities. All donations are distributed locally within the community.

The GNA organizes a grocery distribution at Wooden Cross on Thursdays from 9:30 AM—12:00 NOON.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

The Wooden Cross Christmas Giving Tree is up on the narthex wall and decorated with giving envelopes to meet the requests of our ministry partners who serve people in need throughout our community. Gifts are being collected for:



- ▶ **Acres of Diamonds**—a transitional living residence in Duvall that serves women and children. We will be collecting Fred Meyer, Amazon, Walmart and Safeway gift cards for the families. We will also be collecting donations for meat certificates. Checks may be made payable to: “Wooden Cross/AOD”.
- ▶ **HopeLink**—a local family service agency serving homeless and low-income families, children, seniors and people with disabilities. Choose an envelope from the tree to donate a gift card.

Acres of Diamonds and HopeLink provide stability for families and help people gain the skills, knowledge self-sufficiency they need to make a positive impact in their lives. All gift cards and donations need to be delivered to Wooden Cross **by Sunday, December 11**. Donations may be placed in the offering plate, or in the brown mailbox on the wall next to the office. Thank you!

—Christian Response Committee

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Wooden Cross every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Wooden Cross.



On your first visit to AmazonSmile, simply select Wooden Cross as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.



An ELCA Good Gift, given in the name of your loved one, honors them while helping fight hunger or disease, transforming lives and growing the church. Choose a gift from the catalog, and place your order from different ELCA churchwide ministries. There are dozens of other opportunities!

Consider getting a card in honor of a friend or loved one. These gifts will make a big impact on the needs in our global communities. For more information, visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or search “ELCA Good Gifts.”



A CHRISTMAS HARVEST

Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at this happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread and love.

—Helen Keller

2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:00a Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	2 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:30-11:30a A/V Technician Orientation Workshop	3
4 Advent 2 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 2:00-4:00p Facility Use: Uke Group (Bonnie Madsen) 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: AAHA Meeting (Deb Schuldt)	5 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Scouts (Prayer Chapel) Kyle Partridge	6 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	7 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-	8 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:00a Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	9 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:30-7:00p Facility Use: PEO Group/ Auction (Fellowship Hall & Narthex)	10
11 Advent 3 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Giving Tree Donations Due!	12 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 2:00-8:15p Cello Class (Youth Room) 7:00p AA	13 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	14 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group- 7:00p CHURCH COUNCIL	15 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 9:00a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	16 9-2:45 Acom Montessori 6:00-8:30p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Sylvan Lumsden)	17
18 Advent 4 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch JAN NEWS Articles Due!	19 Acom Montessori on Winter Break 7:00-9:00p Facility Use: Scouts (Prayer Chapel) Kyle Partridge 7:00p AA	20 Acom Montessori on Winter Break	21 Acom Montessori on Winter Break 7:00p Worship Committee	22 Acom Montessori on Winter Break 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank	23 Acom Montessori on Winter Break	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 2:30p 7:30p 
25 Merry Christmas! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Lessons & Carols Service 	26 Acom Montessori on Winter Break 7:00p AA	27 Staff Vacation Acom Montessori on Winter Break	28 Staff Vacation Acom Montessori on Winter Break	29 Staff Vacation Acom Montessori on Winter Break 9:30-12:00 GNA Food Bank 1:30-3:30 Quilters	30 Staff Vacation Acom Montessori on Winter Break	31