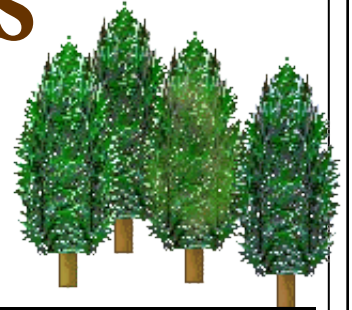


# Wooden Cross Newsletter



January, 2024

**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

Lessons from the “Long View” – thoughts  
Days “for” Christmas

Some things just take a bit more time...  
sometimes a LOT of time. Maybe it’s complex...  
maybe it’s hard to take... maybe it truly needs to  
be savored... slowly... like one bite at a time...

... some things are just better taken slowly... and  
other things just cannot be rushed.

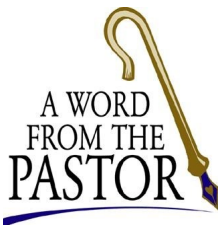
It would be a crime to sit down at a sumptuous  
meal and just start shoveling it in like at a trough... A  
relationship could never likely take root if date nights  
could only last for 5 minutes at a stretch...

Let’s face it, many of the best things in life just take  
time.

God takes his time. That’s one thing that begins to  
show up early on in the grand scheme of scripture is  
that God is working in a “large” time frame that begins  
in the distant past in the origins of the cosmos itself and  
lasts on into time eternal. God works with people across  
generations in his own off-times inscrutable sense of  
timing to bring about things that are of the most  
significance to His people.

Jesus’ birth is kind of like that. Long hoped for and  
then in a moment of stars and angels, shepherds and  
kings Jesus entered into the world after how many  
generations had come and gone? The church birthed IN  
Jesus and sustained by his Holy Spirit has been awaiting  
the next movement of God for how many generations  
since?

Is it possible that the **fullness** of Christmas cannot



fully grasped in a single day of gifts and song and  
mily and worship? Maybe this too is one of those  
things that is so big FOR us that it might take a  
while to really sink in. What would it mean to take  
in Christmas a bit more like a fine wine to be  
sipped than a shot to be fired back? Is this  
perhaps the “why” the Christian church actually has  
historically taught and celebrated Christmas for 12  
days and not just as a singular moment?

Maybe Christmas needs a bit to sink in... maybe it  
takes a bit of time and “renovation” to make a home  
within us for that is where God in Christ comes to dwell.  
The “joy to the World” actually decides to live within us,  
choosing to abide in us Just as Christ abides in the  
Father and the Father in Jesus. May be when he comes  
to move in he finds our “rooms” a bit cluttered and it  
takes him a bit to get things rearranged to His liking.

*Continued on Page 4*



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- Natasha Carlson ..... President
- Blaine Wastell ..... Vice President
- Peggy Reiber ..... Secretary/Treasurer
- Sally Simpson..... Council Member
- Chantal Carlson ..... Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson ..... Council Member
- Jone Vrhel..... Council Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ ..... 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.*

**2023 Local Giving Budget**

**Weekly Average Goal: \$4,334**

<b>NOV</b>	Week 1:	\$4,865	
	Week 2:	\$4,965	
	Week 3:	\$3,160	
	Week 4:	<u>\$914</u>	
		<b>\$13,904</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$3,476</b>

<b>DEC</b>	Week 1:	\$1,450	
	Week 2:	\$6,711	
	Week 3:	\$2,297	
	Week 4:	\$4,213	
	Week 5:	\$4,724	
		<b>\$19,395</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$3,879</b>



**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 ..... T-Th: 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 ..... Sally Simpson

## ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

The Wooden Cross Annual Meeting and Brunch will be on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

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 2024 Budget
9. Resolutions (if any)
10. Election Results
11. Recognitions
12. Benediction

The Annual Report will be available at Church on Sunday, January 14, and from the Church Office during the week prior to the **Annual Meeting**, on **Sunday, January 21**.

## 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 21**, 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 & Brunch.

—Wooden Cross Council

## COMMISSIONING SERVICE

New and Continuing Elected Council and Committee Members for 2024 will be commissioned at the worship service on **Sunday, January 28**.

## WOODEN CROSS IS NOW STREAMING!



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](http://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!

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

In this January, I'd invite you to take the long view on Christ coming in to your heart and mind anew. Pray for how he will rearrange your thoughts and doubts and fears and questions into whatever he most needs to dwell within you. Notice how He can slowly and yet surely take what time is needful to make in you his home. And be patient...

— for this does take time. And the best things of all nearly always do.

May your 12 days of Christmas be simply the slow first beginnings of a relationship that does indeed last into time eternal... God need not rush for you and time

GET READY TO TACKLE HUNGER!

As we prepare for the Super Bowl Festivities, the youth of our nation are gearing up for Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 4. 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."



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.

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!

SCOUT SUNDAY!

Scout Sunday is a day to recognize the contributions of young people and adults in the Scouting program.



Scout Sunday will be celebrated at Wooden Cross on Sunday, February 4 during the worship service. All past and present Scouters—adults and young people—are encouraged to wear their uniforms or scouting pins in support of Scout Sunday.

itself is in His wondrous hands.

May your days be filled with God's revealing wonder and joy!

Merry Christmas...

RevEric

GIVING TREE THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Wooden Cross family for your compassion and giving! Your holiday generosity resulted in \$1,145.00 in gift and grocery card donations to support women and children in transitional housing at Acres of Diamonds in Duvall; and \$930.00 for gift cards for children and families served by HopeLink.

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

AUCTION THANK YOU!

The Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction—"Fan Fever!" on November 4th was a great success! We raised over 13,000!

Proceeds from the Auction will support Wooden Cross local and global mission and ministry projects. To date, donations from the Auction have been sent to Acres of Diamonds (\$2,000); Maltby Food Bank (\$1,500); and HopeLink (\$1,500).

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated.

—Bonnie & Rich Madsen and Peter & Karen Marschalk Auction Co-Coordinators

CHRISTMAS DÉCOR TAKE DOWN

Volunteers are needed on Thursday, January 4 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.



# 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p>1 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>New Year's Holiday</b> <i>No Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7:00p AA</p>	<p>2 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 9:00a Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a <b>Adult Bible Study</b></p> <p>2:00p Uke Group</p>	<p>4 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00 <b>Christmas Décor</b> <b>Take Down</b> 4:00-5:00p Handbells 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i></p>	6
<p>7 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting &amp; Brown Bag Lunch 11:30 Endowment Presentation to Congregation</p>	<p>8 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i></p> <p>7:00p AA</p>	<p>9 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7-9 p Boy Scout Court of Honor 7:00p Christian Response</p>	<p>10 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a <b>Adult Bible Study</b> 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:00p <b>Church Council</b></p>	<p>11 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:00-5:00p Handbells 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 <i>Acorn Montessori Professional Day</i></p>	13
<p>14 <b>Annual Reports Available</b> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service</p>	<p>15 <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr.</b> <b>Holiday</b> <i>No Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>16 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p <b>Endowment Presentation to Congregation</b></p>	<p>17 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a <b>Adult Bible Study</b> 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:00p Worship Zoom Mtg</p>	<p>18 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>4:00-5:00p Handbells 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	20
<p>21 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Meeting</p> <p><b>FEB NEWS Article Due!</b></p>	<p>22 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>23 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a <b>Adult Bible Study</b></p> <p>2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i></p>	<p>25 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters</p> <p>4:00-5:00p Handbells 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:30p Choir</p>	<p>26 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	27
<p>28 <b>Installation of Elected Leadership</b> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting &amp; Brown Bag Lunch</p>	<p>29 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>30 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a <b>Adult Bible Study</b></p> <p>2:00p Uke Group 6:30-8:30 <i>Theater Group</i></p>			