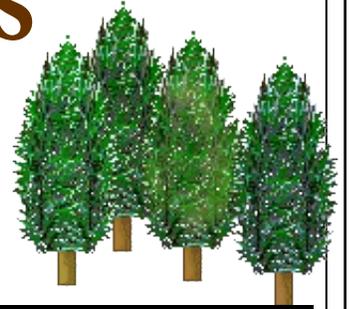


Wooden Cross Newsletter



February, 2023

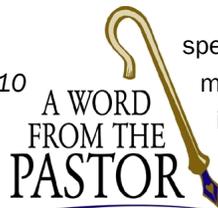
WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

Wooden Cross is a welcoming, Christ-centered community believing in grace and living in faith and service.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“The joy of the Lord is my strength.”

—Nehemiah 8:10



speaking in that moment. I might find myself in those moment thinking “this word cannot be true, because it does not describe the reality I recognize.”

Dearest friends,

I was in a recent conversation where this particular verse came up. It happened to do so at a time when I’ve been thinking a great deal about “how” Scripture functions in life... how God’s word not only describes realities around us and what is ultimately real and true, but how it is also at times “generative” in that it creates in us the very things God’s Word speaks of “to” us.

Let me break down to you why I think this distinction is really quite significant and might help us see more fully how God’s Word is so much a “gift” to us.

Taking the verse above as a test case. Let’s think through what this verse does in us if it is merely descriptive. On one hand if it describes a reality that I recognize in me and I will inevitably agree with it and see God’s Word as a truth... an accurate description of reality as it is and as I experience it. In that event I will see God’s Word as “truth” and find myself living within it.

But, what of those times when either I’m not a) able to find my source of joy for a time or b) unable to stand strong? If the verse is merely descriptive, I might end up coming to God’s word and instead of finding comfort or hope, I might find it to be a word that is unable to speak given the realities I’m currently experiencing. As such I might come to this Word and find myself asking questions of despair and doubt instead of finding God

Let’s look again at the verse from a “generative” view then... the perspective that it is a gift provided to create the very things it references. When this verse is generative, it creates both strength and joy in the hearer DESPITE the circumstances or present realities one may currently be experiencing.

As a verse gifted to generate joy and strength one can begin to see how verses like this and so many others becomes the Word that sustains people through bondage and slavery...being conquered and scattered... having joys stolen and livelihoods crushed. Help comes to those who hear this word and trust the One who provides what it describes. As something generative, it

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

**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: \$4,649

DEC	Week 1:	\$10,246	
	Week 2:	\$6,308	
	Week 3:	\$7,787	
	Week 4:	\$1,724	
		\$26,064	
	Weekly Average:		\$6,516
JAN	Week 1:	\$2,070	
	Week 2:	\$11,950	
	Week 3:	\$11,650	
		\$25,670	
	Weekly Average:		\$8,557

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

IT'S TIME 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 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!

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.

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 5** 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.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



You are invited to join us for our **Ash Wednesday Service** on **February 22** at 7:30 PM.

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)

becomes a word of hope and trust that describes an emerging reality in spite of whatever may be happening. It calls us into the future and becomes a reality that exists over the top of whatever the “happenings” might be in that moment.

The truth of the verse isn't then necessarily a description of what is, but a gift of trust and faith of what is becoming in the moment of receiving it, as a Word of truth in that moment. It becomes a “living word” that engenders faith and hope as we come to trust God to be our source of joy and strength.

When you read scripture, how are you reading for truth contained therein? Are you reading to find truth being described or are you reading for truth to be revealed or even dare we hope generated?!

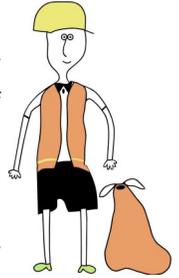
We think and profess the Word of God to be “living” and a “gift” both. I'd encourage you to come to Scripture and listen for it as God's Word gifted into you to generate faith, hope, trust, love, mercy and the like. Engage with Scripture to have it generate in you what God seeks to gift you and see what happens... You will find it to be good.

In Christ and Peace

revEric

ADOPT-A-ROAD UPDATE

Wooden Cross members and friends have participated for many years in the Adopt-a-Road Cleanup of our 2-mile stretch of Woodinville-Duvall Road. Keeping our adopted road clean is another way Wooden Cross demonstrates caring for the community and the environment.



The Adopt-A-Road Program operations have been suspended since March 2020. Getting the Adopt-A-Road Program back up-and-running is still a work in progress. King County is currently operating under executive orders that require all county contractors and volunteers, as well as employees, to be vaccinated against Covid-19. This would require verification of vaccination status of every program volunteer.

While the state's Covid-19 state of emergency and remaining Covid-19 emergency orders have ended effective October 31, 2022, the county's vaccine mandate still applies under the executive orders. King County is currently working to update program guidelines to comply with the vaccine mandate in addition to identifying additional resources for the program since the changes will require substantially more staff time to manage the program. The goal is to relaunch the Adopt-a-Road Program in early spring. Stay tuned!

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 makes it possible for 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.

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p <i>Uke Group Sanctuary</i> 5:00-9:00p <i>Facility Use: WGC Sanctuary & Fellowship</i>	2 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 9:30-12:00 <i>GNA Food Bank</i> 9:15a Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	3 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	4
5 Souper Bowl of Caring Scout Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop	6 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	7 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	8 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p <i>Uke Group (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	9 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 9:30-12:00 <i>GNA Food Bank</i> 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	10 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	11
12 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Special Music-Handbells</i> 11:00 Christian Connection Mtg 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey	13 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	14 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	15 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p <i>Uke Group (Sanctuary)</i> 6:30p Worship Committee	16 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 9:30-12:00 <i>GNA Food Bank</i> 9:15a Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	17 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	18
19 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service MAR NEWS Article Due! 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop	20 President's Day Holiday <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> <i>Mid-Winter Break</i> 7:00p AA	21 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> <i>Mid-Winter Break</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	22 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> <i>Mid-Winter Break</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p <i>Uke Group (Sanctuary)</i> 7:30p ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE <i>Phil Lee, Guest Pastor</i>	23 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> <i>Mid-Winter Break</i> 9:30-12:00 <i>GNA Food Bank</i> 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	24 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> <i>Mid-Winter Break</i>	25
26 Lent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Holden Prayer Service <i>Special Music-Handbells</i> 11:30-2:30 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 11:30a-1:00p Dave Ramsey Financial Workshop	27 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i>	28 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts				