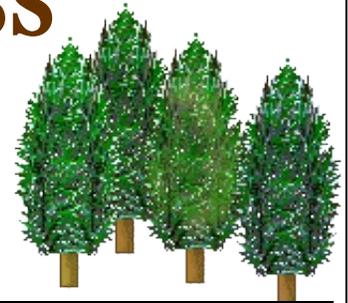


Wooden Cross Newsletter



April, 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

Children of God,

I suspect that by the time I finish with this (or more accurately by the time you get to the end) few of you will be happy with me and yet I feel God is moving me to share some thoughts with you all that I would really rather not.

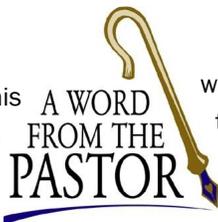
We are at war and have been for some time... the war's latest occurrence is what is unfolding in Ukraine, but that's just it... this is merely the latest incarnation of a war that is and has been raging for a very long time. While the news is filled with the images of this latest war, what it is not shown are the other evidences of the war being waged. Or more so, I do not think we are seeing these other images for what they are. All I would ask is that you join me in exploring the theology in which we discover that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." For it is only from within this lens that we truly see the war that has been raging for our hearts and minds for as long as I can perceive.

First I will say it up front, so that there can be no question, the conquest of people and the ravages occurring to the people of Ukraine today is evil. What the people are enduring is evil, and I pray that this will be stopped immediately.

AND...

I also pray that the evils being committed in Yemen, Ethiopia, Israel, Pakistan, Chicago, Afghanistan and... and... and... would ALSO stop immediately.

I pray that the evils being committed in board rooms where there are fortunes being mapped out and reaped in the midst of these conflicts would also stop.



I pray that the evils of our own political class would stop, as inside trading continues for these the elite so they too can reap windfalls of profits and power in passing legislations that pad their own powers and fortunes.

I pray that God would stop the technocrats who see this conflict and the people being hurt as just another opportunity in their progress, and a crisis that cannot go to waste.

I pray that those who will in NO WAY pay the true costs of war, in either the crushing of their own livelihoods or the blood of their sons and daughters, would be stopped immediately.

I pray that those who use everyone and everything as their pawns and playthings in some sick, twisted global game, whether they be Russian, Chinese, Iran, or the USA would be stopped immediately.



Continued on page 3

Pastor's Message	1, 3, 4
Adult Bible Study	2
Annual Church Spring Cleaning	3
Go, Share Your Faith!	5
LWR Project Comfort Collection	6
Holy Week Services	7
April Calendar	8



- Steven Carlson.....President
- Natasha CarlsonVice President
- Sherman Johnson.....Secretary
- Doug PearmanTreasurer
- Art Hammersberg..... Council Member
- Deb Schuldt..... Council Member
- Sally Simpson..... Council Member
- Chantal Carlson Council Member
- Dave Hutchinson Council Member
- Peter Marschalk..... 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.



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

FEB	Week 1:	\$2,953	
	Week 2:	\$4,254	
	Week 3:	\$3,688	
	Week 4:	<u>\$1,163</u>	
		\$12,058	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,015

MAR	Week 1:	\$4,225	
	Week 2:	\$4,345	
	Week 3:	<u>\$2,845</u>	
		\$11,415	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,805

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

P A S T O R ' S M E S S A G E

Continued from page 1

I pray that the USA, China, Russia, and a whole host of other global powers would stop playing games and conducting warfare through economics and monetary policy, using debt and the manipulation of currencies as their tanks and missiles to wage their shadow wars, in which the people being damaged are those who can barely even see what is being done both “in their name” and “against them.”

I pray in repentance for the fact that today I can hear parroted by those committing atrocities similar justifications I heard from our own national representatives’ mouths not so long ago, as WE responded with violence-to-violence—whether that be in Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, or Afghanistan. (I am not arguing the validity of the rhetoric, but simply that the rhetoric is nearly identical.)

I pray with tears simultaneously for the courage of those who truly are fighting to defend the weak and powerless, AND for the fact that their courage is intermixed with those who DO idolize Hitler and his ideas not only in the Ukraine, but HERE in the US and many other places throughout Russia AND Europe too. It seems far too true that some evils will never die until the Son of God truly does return to crush that serpent under heel once and for all.

I pray with agony and repentance that “We the People” are not outraged at our own government’s experimentation and dabbling with things like bio-agents and weapons who’s primary purpose is to terrorize, as much as we are outraged at these self same realities in the hands of other nations... I pray that this experimentation would stop.

I pray for the confusion people feel as they cannot sort through in our public discourse how quickly our rhetoric bounces back and forth between “it’s not our fight” and “we must do something.” And how quickly people feel hopeless and helpless in the onslaught, even AS those who are being truly caught in the onslaught of war are daily being ravaged.

I pray with guilt afresh each time I rediscover that my and our Western love has more to do with latte’s, “low, low prices,” and the love of money and economic benefit, than it has to do with the people Jesus calls us to love as our neighbors. Walking around their plight

and not being involved—much like Jesus’ description of the pious ones who walk around the one beaten and robbed until the Samaritan shows what “good” truly embodies.

I pray... because at the end of the day I discover in the mirror one who has and does sin, and falls short of the glory of God.

I pray for the world, that it turns out is indeed in the clutches of the same Satan who wasn’t JUST bragging when he led Jesus up and talked about all the powers and authorities of the Earth that are under his sway, to do with as he pleases. Let me say that again... the one who Scripture flat out tells us is “prowling like a hungry lion, seeking one whom he can devour” HAS AT HIS DISPOSAL THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THIS EARTH UNTIL the Son of God returns to crush him under foot.

I pray because as much as I wish it weren’t so, evil does not just reside in the heart of a Putin, but exists in the heart of a Biden and a Griffith as well. It doesn’t just reside in a Russia or a China, but in a United States as well. It is not content to ravage a Ukraine, but is actively desiring to turn all of God’s good creation to ash—to unmake what God lovingly makes and all those who God loves, and has even given his Son over to death to redeem.

I pray... and then I repent. I do not get to wear a “white-hat” and pretend that I or even the country I love is without our sins in this world rebelling against God. Recognizing sin is never to passively condone some other sin being committed. It is the necessary step in repentance in which there is to be a turning about. Jesus when he spoke of not dealing with the speck in another’s eye before addressing the plank in my own is the source of needing to not only see the atrocities being committed by a Russia or a Putin, but also to try to see the atrocities committed in our names by a Bush, a Clinton, an Obama, a Trump, and a Biden too... and lest I forget... to see them in a Griffith as well, and bring my appeal to God’s mercy back home to my own heart.

I pray... and then I respond. I don’t really see that I have power to affect much that is happening in the “halls of power.” For again lest those halls of power

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

are populated by those who actually are “returning to the Lord our God,” the people in those halls are and will remain corrupt playthings in Satan’s desire to bring all of creation into rebellion against God, broken, tattered and despairing.

What I know though, is that as one filled with God’s Holy Spirit I can use what God gives me to live and respond as an agent of God’s grace bearing witness to the Light that shines in the darkness. Jesus places in my ability things like giving of my money and time to alleviate suffering. Jesus gives me a voice to use. Jesus gives me the same gift of 24 hours a day as any other to do as he does, love who he loves, heal as he heals, proclaim as he proclaims, see who he sees in the WAY he sees them.

Jesus loves those who follow, as well as those who could not follow and who walked away from him. Jesus supped with those who not only loved him, but also with the same ones who cried out “Crucify.” Jesus died on a cross and from which he still called for God to “forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.” Jesus spoke of laying down one’s life for a friend as the height of love, and also spoke of putting away the sword to prevent him from being taken for execution.

Responses to all that we see in this world are going to be across the board, and are not always going to be absolutely clear cut. Some will respond by placing their very life in harms way to protect the weak. Others will bring hands of compassion to bear. Others will bring their resources and labors into the mix. Following Christ can be demonstrated in various ways... what is true across the board is that it is the active edge of faith to respond to our neighbors as neighbors... to love them as we love ourselves... to love them, even failingly, as God loves them.

Jesus leads us to know how to respond in the face of the chaos and evils of this world. We pray... we repent... we respond for truly ALL have indeed fallen short of the Glory of God, AND all are truly those for whom Jesus gave his life. The world is complex and messy... It is not always clear the right actions with which to respond... often there truly does not seem to be a “good” option in our corrupt and broken world.

And yet to pray... to repent.. and to respond with the agency of your own skin seems to be God’s intention for how to have the light of Christ yet shine, and for the world to yet know the love of God living in Christ Jesus. “Rise up O saints of God... from vain ambitions turn. Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.”

In all of this, I write you simply as one who is trying to love Jesus in a world that seemingly is bent towards its own destruction. Connecting with God, growing in faith and friendship, and going to invite and serve seems to be intimately connected with learning to pray, to repent, and to respond.

May God bless you and keep you and may God have mercy upon us all.

In Christ

RevEric

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

Our Annual Spring Clean-up of the Church facilities and grounds is **Saturday, April 2**, beginning at **9:00 AM**. This will be our opportunity to refresh the church and grounds as we prepare for Easter. Bring a lunch and join us! All are welcome! Proposed projects include:



- ▶ Sweeping and raking paved and landscaped areas
- ▶ Pressure washing walkways and sidewalks as needed
- ▶ Cutting away dead trees along Woodinville-Duvall Road
- ▶ Cutting back landscaping along sanctuary windows.
- ▶ Starting repairs on the highway lighted sign.

Please join us, and bring your favorite coffee drink to start the day! You are also welcome to bring work gloves, rakes, shovels, brooms, and other implements of destruction. Thank you for helping us give a fresh cleaned-up appearance to our facilities and grounds for Easter Sunday!

Mike Gaylord
Property Committee

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

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. Over the next few months the Church Council is going to provide the opportunity for the worshipping members of Wooden Cross Lutheran Church to share their faith with their fellow church members.



We are excited to begin this work because it IS a joy to share things that are important to us with others.

Steven Carlson
Council President

THE CHOIR RETURNS!

Why not add more music to your life? Consider joining the choir. The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on **Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.**



All voices welcome—particularly sopranos! Seung Lee will lead the choir as the new Interim Director.

HANDBELL RINGERS INVITATION



The Handbell Choir is looking to expand. Rehearsals are Thursday mornings, 9:15-10:15 AM. Once-a-month a piece is performed during the Sunday Service as special music.

If you are an experienced handbell ringer, or just want to know more about this music ministry, please contact Linda Rubel (206-940-8267) or Jone Vrhel (425-205-1636).

AUDIO / VISUAL UPDATE

The AV Tech Team continues to learn and test our audio and visual additions to the church sanctuary every week. You will begin to experience additional visuals including audio additions incorporated into services as we approach Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.



AUDIO-VISUAL team

many outside walls that are now inside walls blocking our WiFi capability within the facility.” Ahh.... the younger folks (tech-no-men) can make it simple for us older ones to understand. It’s great to have Hans on the team.

As we experiment with this creativity in production, we are mapping out the system’s basic operation process before we train the people who have volunteered to operate the sound and visual portion for services and other events held in our facility. We will announce this in the weeks ahead.

One major item yet to be installed is a new more robust WiFi system throughout the entire church facility. Wooden Cross was built over 40 years ago. Our church facility has been remodeled and enlarged three times! The last addition was the classroom wing in 2009. Technology has grown rapidly increasing our need for an updated Wifi system.

Working together we have designed a new system with the capacity and capabilities to use WiFi in every corner and classroom of the church facility; and improve secure networks for administration, guests and groups who use our facilities for meetings, schools, and events. We will also have the future capability to broadcast video and audio of church services and special events if we desire.

Our plan is to install the new WiFi system on Saturday, April 23 after Holy Week and Easter. Again, we will make announcements as needed of these happenings.

Working with the Tech Team on improved WIFI, Hans Luchsinger finally put our challenge in a perspective that I could understand. “We basically have three separate homes under one big roof...with

My thanks to the AV Project Tech Team, including staff, for their work in planning and installation; to the many volunteers who have helped to make all this happen with hard physical work; and your financial support. Blessings to you all and Happy Easter!

Jerry Booren, A/V Team Member

HELEN'S PLACE

As part of The Sophia Way, the new "Helen's Place" in Kirkland provides a safe and stable space for women experiencing homelessness to rest and heal. The shelter offers women the care and comfort they need, while being supported in navigating their individual journey to stability and housing.



The shelter is open 24/7, 365 days a year. It provides 48 single sleeping beds, shower and laundry facilities, nutritious meals, case management and supportive services, and on-site mental health services.

Blaine Wastell is looking for people who would be interested partnering with him to provide a meal to be delivered to the Helen's Place facility. For more information please contact Blaine at 206-954-0607 / b_wastell@hotmail.com. Or to sign-up, visit their website at: [Nourish \(sophiaway.org\)](http://Nourish(sophiaway.org)).

Helen's Place is supported by generous gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, faith communities, and civic groups.

CAMP UNITY DINNER



Wooden Cross members and friends provide monthly meals to Camp Unity residents in the Woodinville area. The Wooden Cross meal coordinator delivers the meal to Camp Unity, and the residents serve themselves.

Wooden Cross will host the next dinner on **Tuesday, April 26**. If you'd like to bring a food item, please sign up on the church narthex or contact the church office. Meal donations should be brought to Wooden Cross by 5:00 PM. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry.

CLOTHING COLLECTION



Please consider donating your used clothing. Donations of jeans, shirts, coats, socks, etc. are most appreciated. Items may be placed in the clothing collection box in the church narthex. The Christian Response Committee will sort items and distribute to several local charities. Thanks for your support and clothing.

LWR SPRING COLLECTION

We recognize the Eastern European Crisis is to the forefront of the news and people's thoughts. In addition to our individual support of the Ukrainian refugees, we will participate in the Lutheran World Relief Spring Ingathering by collecting monetary donations for Personal Care Kits.



Your donation will help people in the many areas of the world where political unrest has uprooted people and denied them simple essentials for personal hygiene. When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it is often to people who have lost or left behind everything having fled from violence or in the wake of a natural disaster.

You can share God's grace and love by providing basic comfort with the simple gesture of donating toward a Personal Care Kit. Receiving basic items such as a towel, bar of soap and a toothbrush lets them know they have not been forsaken by the world. A table is set up in the narthex with a sample Personal Care Kit. Each Personal Care Kit costs \$23.00. The Christian Response Committee will be purchasing the specific kit items in bulk amounts with the collected funds.

Please make checks payable to: "Wooden Cross" and note **"LWR Kits"** in the memo line. **The donation deadline is Sunday, May 8.** Thank you for your support!

—Christian Connection Committee

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE



Holy Week

- Palm Sunday—April 10**
Worship Service10:00 AM
- Maundy Thursday—April 14**
Worship Service 7:30 PM
- Good Friday—April 15**
Worship Service 7:30 PM
- Easter Sunday—April 17**
Festival Worship Service10:00 AM
Easter Treat Coffee Fellowship.....11:00 AM

WOODEN CROSS GARAGE SALE

This year's Annual Wooden Cross Garage Sale will be Friday & Saturday, May 20 and 21.



You are invited to join us for the **Garage Sale Kickoff Meeting** on **Thursday, April 7** at **10:00 AM** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Experience and suggestions from previous Garage Sale coordinators and organizers will be very helpful and most welcome.

Volunteers are needed to make this fundraiser happen. Task include set up (especially men for lifting and moving the bigger items); cashiering and assisting shoppers during the sale; and clean up. If you can help, please sign up in the church narthex. Thank you!

Garage Sale items may be brought to the church after May 2. We will not be accepting any computers, monitors, clothing, broken items or junk—as these items do not sell. Please make sure your items are clean, presentable and ready to sell.

Proceeds from the Garage Sale will support Wooden Cross missions, ministries and projects. A Thrivent Action Team Grant will assist us with these care ministries and servant projects. Our Annual Garage Sale Cares for God's Creation through Reducing, Reusing and Recycling.

—Pati McGraw, Coordinator

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HAS RETURNED!

Beginning Sunday, March 13 coffee will be served after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to stay and join us 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 in the kitchen. Thank you.

The Council will provide special treats for Easter fellowship time. You are invited to join us!

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 for Sunday and Thursday dates and times). Bring a sewing machine, or just come and help cut and assemble fabric. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with friends, or make new ones!



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.

Wooden Cross April News, 2022

2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	2 9:00a Church Spring Clean-up Day
3 Lent 5 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Holden Prayer Worship Service <i>I Love to Tell the Story—</i> <i>Art Hammersberg</i> 11:30-2:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	4 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 6:00-8:30p HEART (Youth Room) 7:00p AA	5 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 6:00-8:30p HEART (Youth Room) 7-9 p Boy Scouts	6 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group 5:00-9:00p <i>WGC (Sanctuary)</i> 6:00-8:30p HEART (Youth Room) 7:30p Zoom Lent Study	7 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 9:30 Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 10:00a Garage Sale Kickoff Meeting! 6:00-8:30p HEART (Youth Room) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	8 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	9
10 PALM SUNDAY! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Palm Sunday Worship Service	11 <i>Acom Montessori on Spring Break</i> 7:00p AA	12 <i>Acom Montessori on Spring Break</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	13 <i>Acom Montessori on Spring Break</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group	14 <i>Acom Montessori on Spring Break</i> 9:30 Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 7:30p Maundy Thursday Worship Service	15 <i>Acom Montessori on Spring Break</i> 7:30p Good Friday Worship Service	16
17 EASTER SUNDAY! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Easter Service <i>Special Music: Choir & Handbells</i> 11:00 Easter Treats Coffee Fellowship	18 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> Staff Vacation Day 7:00p AA	19 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	20 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Adult Bible Study Today 10:00-11:30a <i>Parent Group</i> 2:00p Uke Group 7:00p Church Council	21 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 9:30 Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	22 Earth Day 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	23 9:00a-4:00p WiFi Installation WC Tech Team
24 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>I Love to Tell the Story—</i> <i>Peter Marschalk</i> <i>Special Music: Handbells</i>	25 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	26 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 5:30p Camp Unity Dinner 7-9 p Boy Scouts	27 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 10:00-11:30a <i>Parent Group</i> 2:00p Uke Group 6:30-9:00p <i>Stray Threads Quilt Guild</i> 6:30p Worship Committee 6:00-10:00p HEART (Youth Room)	28 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 9:30 Food Bank 9:15a Handbells 1:30-3:30 Quilters 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	29 8-3:30 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	30 1:00-5:00p <i>Facility Use:</i> <i>Cello Recitals</i> <i>Sylvan Lumsden</i> (Sanctuary)