

# Wooden Cross Newsletter

May, 2023

WOODEN CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

*We are disciples of Jesus, connecting with God, growing in faith and friendship,  
who go to invite and serve that all will know and follow Jesus.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

*May grace and peace from our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ preserve and protect you from all the  
wiles of the devil and his minions who seek to  
destroy all that God loves. Amen.*

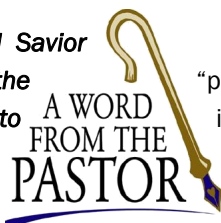
Beloved friends of Christ,

Prayerfully I come to you in this article and ask that you take seriously that you are indeed involved in a fight that began well before you, and in which the stakes cannot be higher.

Scripture tells us that Jesus came to “destroy all the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8) which if you will note requires a couple things to be true to make any sense at all. One is that there is a “devil,” a “Satan” an adversary whose very definition is to be opposed to God and God’s will in creation. The second, that this devil actually has an authority making it possible to accomplish something. Both of these I find Scripture being uniform in its witness affirming, and yet in our modern / post modern setting I find even in the church many who are poorly equipped to even discuss these matters, let alone have any much confidence how Jesus comes and actually addresses these matters in our lives.

This is a “big” subject, likely even too big for something like an article in a newsletter and yet it is too important to say nothing at all. So perhaps this becomes something as simple as an invitation to enter into a time of study and discernment along with me, for as I say the “stakes” in this are far higher than many realize.

There is a “devil” and his minions the Scripture name “demons.”



A WORD  
FROM THE  
PASTOR

There are personal powers (they are created “persons” and not simply forces) that are absolutely in conflict with God. They hate who God is. They hate what God does. They loathe who God loves. They “know” God deeply and it fact it was this knowledge of God and God’s full plan for humanity that led them to rebel and turn from God using the gift of free will God had bestowed upon them to do so.

They are limited in power and authority and this too leads to their hatred, for they cannot be what God alone is and their pride leads them to detest God for this limitation. They were created by God with purpose to join in service to God and bring about God’s holy and perfect Will, which in their rebellion they reject wholly, choosing to remain wholly detached from Goodness

*Continued on Page 3*

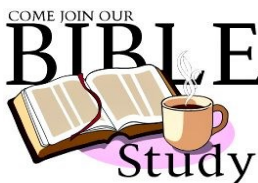


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- Natasha Carlson .....President  
 Blaine Wastell .....Vice President  
 Peggy Reiber .....Secretary/Treasurer  
 Sally Simpson..... Council Member  
 Chantal Carlson ..... Council Member  
 Dave Hutchinson ..... Council Member  
 Jone Vrhel.....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

**WEDNESDAY MORNING  
BIBLE STUDY**



COME JOIN OUR  
**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**

<b>MAR</b>	Week 1:	\$2,362	
	Week 2:	\$3,738	
	Week 3:	\$4,019	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,693</u>	
		<b>\$12,811</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$3,203</b>

<b>APR</b>	Week 1:	\$2,175	
	Week 2:	\$4,470	
	Week 3:	\$3,230	
	Week 4:	<u>\$8,551</u>	
		<b>\$18,426</b>	
	<b>Weekly Average:</b>		<b>\$4,607</b>

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](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

Organist / Interim Music Director ..... Seung Lee

Special Music ..... Ensemble Musicians

Altar Guild ..... Sally Simpson

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE***(continued from page 1)*

itself, for God is the only source and norm of all goodness, and instead live in "evil," the state of absence of all goodness, the absence of God... what Scripture uses the term "fallen" to describe.

**The devil and minion demons have an authority on earth UNTIL God rescinds it once and for all.**

The "devil" doesn't "make us do it." That isn't an authority permitted by God's sovereignty. However this does not mean that until Christ's final judgment the devil has no power at all. Scripture uses a descriptor term "the Adversary" to describe what authority is available. The devil is "that which comes against God" and "seeks to corrupt and destroy" all that God does.... A "roaring lion seeking whom we will devour." The Adversary and minions cannot "create" or "compel," nor can they operate in ways beyond the authority permitted them by God. Which is part of why we in the church take great heart in promises like "perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18) and also read time and again how demons are subject fully to Jesus... they cannot resist him as His is the supreme authority even without their consent or desire.

The limits on authority are best seen in the fall narrative of Adam and Eve... the serpent can come and lie, tempt (make attractive the idea of rebellion against God) and encourage others to join in that rebellious loathing of God. Now note I'm not talking about limits on "power" or the ability to use whatever might be useful in exercising this authority. God is the sole limiter of that power, but this is the limit of the *authority* possessed by the devil and minions in the cosmos. That authority is used against humanity particularly because it turns our that in the Incarnation (God become one of us in Jesus Christ) God dignifies being enfleshed, something the spiritual created beings do not possess and the diabolic cannot accept. That authority is NOT limitless nor is it even on par with God for the creation and creature are not equal with the Creator... ever.

**The stakes are "high"**

The stake is you... me... everyone we love... everyone who ever has been... everyone who ever yet

will be. This Adversary seeks your destruction. Suffering is useful... but suffering is not the goal... rebellion and destruction are.

What is amazing to even begin to fathom is that it's not even "personally" about you... it's about hurting God and breaking what God is, has and will be doing. It's about making hurting God normal here while time is available to do so. Scripture is clear that this is a limited time reality, but while it is real... the Adversary will tirelessly work to corrupt and break and entice to rebellion as many as can be.

**Jesus has come and destroyed the works of the devil!**

There is a reason the devil and minions mess with the church and people of faith. We are empowered by God and called forth into this fight. We are called to go in with the full armor of God. We are gifted the Holy Spirit and we follow our Lord and Captain into the midst of breaking this dominion of sin death and hell.

The cross of Christ is already our victory. We pray and hurt the machinations of evil in all its forms. We remain connected to God and armed with the Word of God and the devil reels. We pray and fast and together with all the church. We become the rock against which even the gates of hell itself does not prevail. We trust Jesus and there is nothing actually to fear.

My friends... God's people... friends of Jesus Christ... We are in this fight! Ignoring it and remaining ignorant of it is no option. Hear the voice of Jesus calling us onward and let us engage diligently the fight not of only our lives, but the fight for the lives of all we love and more so all God loves!

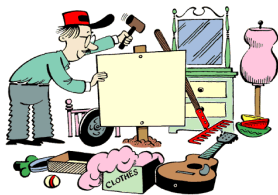
**May grace and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ preserve and protect you from all the wiles of the devil and his minions who seek to destroy all that God loves. Amen.**

In Christ,  
revEric



### WOODEN CROSS ANNUAL GARAGE

This year's Annual Wooden Cross Garage Sale will be Friday & Saturday, May 19 and 20.



Volunteers are needed to make this fundraiser happen. Tasks 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!

Donated Garage Sale items may be brought to the church now through Monday, May 15. We will not be accepting any sofas, dressers, clothing, computers, monitors, 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

### QUILTER'S GROUP

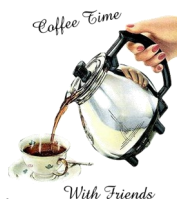
The Wooden Cross Quilter's Group continue to make beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. You are invited to join us (see calendar on the bulletin board for Sunday and Thursday dates and times). Bring a sewing machine, or just come and help cut and assemble fabric. Come and reconnect with friends, or make new ones!



### 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, the sign up is on the narthex table. Thank you.



### 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.



### 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 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 volunteer tech team who are learning how to operate our new audio, video and streaming functions.

# 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<p>1 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>12:00-1:30 Facility Use: Parent Group (Fellowship Hall)</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 8:00-12:00 Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary) 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary</p>	<p>4 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>9:00a Handbells</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	<p>6 12:30-5:00p Facility Use: Tanner Johnson Eagle Scout Ceremony</p>
<p>7 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting &amp; Brown Bag Lunch</p>	<p>8 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>12:00-1:30 Facility Use: Parent Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00p AA</p>	<p>9 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response</p>	<p>10 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00p CHURCH COUNCIL</p>	<p>11 <i>Staff Vacation Day</i> 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 9:00a Handbells</p> <p>1:30-3:30 Quilters</p> <p>7:30p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p>	<p>13 8:30-4:00p NWWA Synod Assembly Salem Lutheran, Mount Vernon 9:00a WGC Annual Plant Sale Woodinville Alliance Church</p>
<p>14 <b>Mother's Day!</b> 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Special Music— Handbells</i></p> <p>11:00 Garage Sale Sanctuary Clearing and Table Set Up</p>	<p>15 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Garage Sale Setup</p> <p>All Garage Sale Item Donations Due Today!</p> <p>7:00p AA</p>	<p>16 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Garage Sale Setup</p> <p>7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Garage Sale Setup 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00p Worship Committee</p>	<p>18 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Garage Sale Setup</p>	<p>19 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 9:00-4:00 Garage Sale</p> 	<p>20 9:00-11:00 Garage Sale</p> 
<p>21 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-2:30 Quilting &amp; Brown Bag Lunch</p> <p>JUN NEWS Article Due!</p>	<p>22 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7:00p AA</p>	<p>23 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary</p>	<p>25 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>1:30-3:30 Quilters</p>	<p>26 <i>No Acorn Montessori</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Special Music— Handbells</i></p>	<p>29</p>  <p><b>Memorial Day Holiday. Office Closed.</b> <i>No Acorn Montessori</i> 7:00p AA</p>	<p>30 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i></p> <p>7-9 p Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 9-2:45 <i>Acorn Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 5:30-8:30p Facility Use: Pederson Violin Rehearsal</p>			