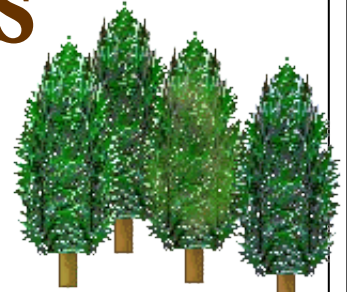
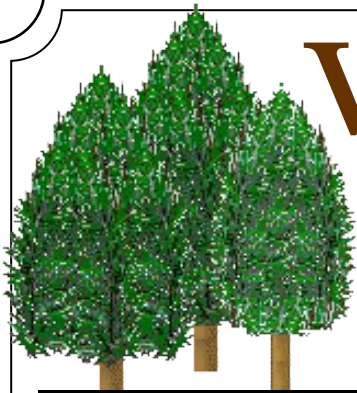


Wooden Cross Newsletter

November, 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

Come Lord Jesus... fill the hearts of Your people.

Dearest friends and God's children,

I think you would have to have your head firmly under a rock to have missed the question of "is this the end drawing near?" prevalent in our public discourse. Between the conflicts brewing up in the middle east, ...to the public discord resultant from the same, ...to the escalating tensions (pick your "arena" you've got plenty to choose from... racial, sex, gender, immigration and the ongoing movements of large world populations, economic, political... just to name the ones that come to mind most readily) that not only get lived out in our public spaces but in many families in our personal spaces as well, ...to the escalating discord between nation states and what can easily be described as "low level warfare" being conducted in a variety of means (information/propaganda, electronic, and yes militarily as well) ...to the anticipated unraveling if something on a college campus should brew over... or the "wrong" person get elected (and "wrong" here is absolutely subjective based in the vehemence of opposition internalized by each one of us.) So yeah... I'd say people are tense and poised to see things go "bad" with the only seeming difference is "how bad" the expected unraveling to become. In the last several weeks I've personally heard and in social media lurking seen people at minimum asking about "is this the end?"

Let's start with the most honest "scriptural answer..."

"I don't know and neither does anyone else."

Jesus flat out said, "no one knows the hour" (and by

A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR



his own declaration that INCLUDED him - check Matthew 24:36 for yourself) which tells me that to pretend to answer the question with anything other than an "I don't know" is to assume pretense and knowledge to which none of us are privileged. God alone knows, has known or ever will "know" the rest of us can wonder, speculate, discern, question, inquire and/or hypothesize but to be honest... we cannot know because this is one of those "the creation doesn't have access to the mind of God things."

But let me ask you... does "not knowing" change anything about the things you "do know" about in terms of who you are, Whose you are, and "how" you've been called to live in the time you have been allotted? What

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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**

You are invited to join us for Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM (in-person and on ZOOM). The Bible Study helps people grow in their relationships with God and neighbors.



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.



Daylight Savings Time Ends
In the wee hours of Sunday, November 5.
Remember to set your clocks back!



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

SEP	Week 1:	\$2,371	
	Week 2:	\$2,849	
	Week 3:	\$8,669	
	Week 4:	<u>\$1,101</u>	
		\$14,990	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,748

OCT	Week 1:	\$3,205	
	Week 2:	\$4,550	
	Week 3:	\$6,470	
	Week 4:	\$6,817	
	Week 5:	<u>\$1,275</u>	
		\$22,317	

Weekly Average: \$4,463

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

LWR QUILT COLLECTION



More than 50 quilts were blessed on October 29 in preparation for the 2023 Fall LWR Ingathering.

Our faithful cadre of quilters include Betty Scott, Jone Vrhel, Cinda Woody, Linda Griffith, Sally Simpson, Nancy VanDalsem, Sandy Hammersburg, and Peg Jessen. Thanks to all of them.

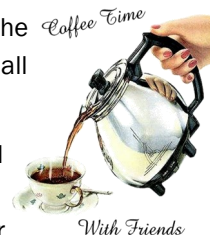
For any who would join us in sharing God's warmth and love with the world—you don't have to know how to sew or own a machine—we've got you covered, AND Betty loves helping others learn new skills.

The Wooden Cross Quilters meet on alternating Sunday and Thursday afternoons. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board and on the website calendar. Projects are available to work on at home as well. All sewers and helpers welcome!

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.



LWR SCHOOL KIT THANK YOU!



Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Each kit consists of a sturdy, cloth drawstring backpack, four 70-sheet notebooks, 5 pencils, pencil sharpener, box of crayons, ruler, blunt scissors, 5 ballpoint pens, and an eraser.

A BIG THANK YOU from the Christian Response Committee for your generous donations to LWR School Kit Drive. Our collection totaled \$1,445.00—exceeding our goal of 60 school kits!

WOODEN CROSS LIVESTREAM CHANNEL



Wooden Cross church services are now available on a YouTube LiveStream Channel. You can now watch our Sunday morning worship services online, as well as see any of the previous broadcasted services. Visit us at our church website—WeAreWoodenCross.org, and click on the streaming link. Be sure to “subscribe” to receive ongoing notifications of upcoming streams, as well as access to archived services that you missed or have chosen to watch later. Through this technology we are able to expand our ministry anywhere in the world and let people learn more about us and our ministry.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

A U C T I O N T H A N K Y O U !

The Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction—"Fan Fever!" was a great success...and a lot of fun! Thank you to everyone who donated and participated. And to Marilyn & the G Strings for the live music. Proceeds from the Auction will support Wooden Cross local and global mission and ministry projects. The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.



Bonnie & Rich Madsen / Peter & Karen Marschalk
2023 Auction Co-Coordinator

**C H R I S T M A S G I V I N G
T R E E**

Please help make this a brighter Christmas for those in need. This year, Christian Response will be collecting monetary donations, and gift cards for **HopeLink** and **Acres of Diamonds**. (If you wish to donate to Foss House, please make your donation directly.) **From November 12 through December 2** envelopes will be available on the Giving Tree. Donations may be placed in the offering basket.



Acres of Diamonds. This Duvall transitional living residence serves women and children. Acres of Diamonds has requested ORCA Cards (for public transportation), Safeway Card, Safeway Gas Cards and Shell Gas Cards; and VISA , Target and Amazon Gift Cards. Checks may be made payable to: "Wooden Cross" and note AoD in the memo line.

HopeLink Gifts. This family agency serves children and youth in King County. Monetary donations will supply a child or youth with gifts for Christmas. Gift Cards to Safeway, Fred Meyer, and Target, between \$25-\$50 work best for parents to be able to purchase suitable gifts for their children. If you prefer to write a check, please make your checks payable to: "Wooden Cross" and note HopeLink in the memo line.

Thank you in advance for your support.

—Christian Response Committee

**T H A N K S G I V I N G E V E
S E R V I C E**



Our Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 23, 7:30 PM is a celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for our many blessings during the past year.

The monetary offering will go to support local hunger.

T H A N K S G I V I N G E V E P O T L U C K P I E S O C I A L

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service, you are invited to join us for a Potluck Pie Fellowship.



**C O N S I D E R S H A R I N G
Y O U R V O I C E !**

It's time to make some music! And the Wooden Cross Choir is ready to start singing again!



Seung Lee will lead the choir as the new Interim Director. Why not add more music to your life and consider joining the choir!

The Wooden Cross Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM, All voices welcome—particularly sopranos!

**C H R I S T M A S
S T O R Y W A L K**

New this year Wooden Cross will celebrate the Advent-Christmas Season with StoryWalks on December 2 and 3, from 4:00-6:00 PM. Wooden Cross extended families, grandkids, grandparents, neighbors and friends are invited and encouraged to get together and have fun sharing the nativity story.

There will be with 12 StoryWalk stations, ending at the campfire pit with crafts and hot beverages. Please bring your flashlights as we walk the labyrinth, trails and firepit areas this Advent Season.

If you'd like to volunteer and help prepare for this event, please sign up at the entrance table. Thank you!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

does knowing or not knowing change about “love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind soul and strength and Love your neighbor as yourself?” What does the knowing/not knowing change about “go therefore into all the world... make disciples... baptize and teach?” What does knowing/not knowing change about the daily “take up your cross and follow me” and as Luther reflected upon this the daily.. “die to ourselves with Christ Jesus and the rise daily to live with Him?”

I think what I’m inviting us all to ground ourselves within is a simple notion of trust (dare I even say perhaps a bit “childlike”) that takes as it’s content a “should this be the end (yours, mine, ours...) lets join with Luther when he had been asked about it.” When asked what would be his response should this be his last day, he said “I’d go plant a tree...” a statement of trust and hope in a God who is gracious and merciful... a statement of trust in a God who has walked with His people throughout the darkest of times as the source of correction and healing both... a statement of a peace filled heart despite all the

“flaming darts” of the evil one for Luther’s God (and ours too) IS a Mighty Fortress... a statement born in the recognition that God’s callings for us are not contingent on the times in which we are allotted, His callings and promises are FOR each of us in this time, in this place in our particular “come what may.”

So dear friends regardless of whether this should be a last day for any one of us... or we have a “bazillion” more yet to come... let us today be rooted deeply in God. Take to heart his callings of “be not afraid.” And continually remain grounded in the cross of Christ which is our hope and salvation in all “come what may” that will come in their season and time.

Be at peace... for you are God’s children and you are in His GOOD hands even now in times and events such as these. Be at peace within, be at peace with God for He has made peace be yours, and friends let us find ways to be at peace with one another too.

Peace be with you all... In Christ.

RevEric

ADVENT RETREAT OPPERTUNITY

You are invited to participate in “Illuminated 2023—An Online Journey into the Heart of Christmas” led by Jan Richardson, **December 3-27**. This 4-week online retreat provides an opportunity to journey through Advent and Christmas in contemplation and conversation with others along the way. The retreat will offer a space of elegant simplicity, intertwining reflection, art, music and community.

This online retreat is not about adding one more thing to your holiday schedule. It is about helping you find spaces for reflection that draw you deep into a season that shimmers with mystery and possibility.

Participants will receive three emails each week (Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday), plus emails for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These emails will feature written reflections, questions, and blessings by Jan, along with artwork she has created for your Advent journey.

Music from Garrison Doles will weave through the



retreat, drawing you deep into the gifts of this season with his original songs and reflective instrumental pieces.

An optional online forum will also be available. The forum is a space where you can offer responses and engage others during the retreat. Jan will host the forum and the conversation that will take place there.

Retreat Cost: **\$60 per person** (for a group of 8 or more). To register, or more information, please contact **Jone Vrhel, 425-205-1636**.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	2 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilting and LWR Quilt Packing 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	3 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	4 LWR Fall Ingathering  5:30p "Fan Fever!" Dinner Auction
5 All Saints Sunday! Daylight Savings Ends! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Dave H., Temple Talk</i> 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch 4:00-7:00p Facility Use: Cello Recital (Lumsden)	6 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	7 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	8 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 7:00P CHURCH COUNCIL	9 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	10 No Acom Montessori	11 Veteran's Day
12 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	13 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	14 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian Response	15 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	16 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	17 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i>	18
19 Stewardship Commitment Sunday! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service <i>Blaine W., Temple Talk</i> 11:30 Endowment Presentation to Congregation 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	20 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	21 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	22 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> No Bible Study 7:30p Thanksgiving Eve Communion Service & Pie Social	23 Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed 	24 Holiday. Office Closed.	25
26 Advent 1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Giving Tree Set Up 11:00 Decorating for Advent/Christmas/Epiphany—banners, tree, church outdoor lights, etc. 11:15 StoryWalk Trial Setup	27 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7:00p AA	28 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 7-9 p Boy Scouts	29 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	30 9-2:45 <i>Acom Montessori</i> 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal		