

Wooden Cross Newsletter

October, 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 the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus be with you all.

Jesus once spoke of how he came and brings division upon people... father from son, mother from daughter, in-laws divided, and the like. Jesus and following him does put us at odds with the world and those who do not. There is not much that can be done about this reality so it would seem from God's perspective as Jesus expresses it. Do you notice though what often "we" do about this reality?

We too often stop naming Jesus as our source and norm of faith and life. We water down Jesus as being the Way, the Truth, and the Life who is the only way to the Father (HIS words...) and instead talk about him as being "a" way... well if he is spoken of at all. We will reference "spirit" or "god" with not a hint of the particularity of Jesus entering into the conversation. In each of these while Jesus seems to be naming a truth that cannot really be skirted, we take great pains to move away from the scandal of particularity inherent in faith in Jesus and taking him at his word. Such great pains in fact, that should one look from an "outside" perspective one might be legitimate in asking what of the faith being discussed makes it Christian at all?

You might be wondering why I bring this up and even am I just being hyperbolic? I could only wish but in truth these and many more are alive and well in institutional church, in individual faith, and in many common representations of faith conversant in our modern era. Recently I attended an event that represented each of these, and even presented spiritual reflections and practices more rooted in the historic practices of pagan myth than anything in the historic expressions of orthodox Christian faith. Jesus was not named. Scripture was not a resource utilized explicitly and rarely even alluded to. Jesus was not much

A WORD
FROM THE
PASTOR

discussed there but what was, was a nebulous form of "spirituality" that would be more at home in an Oprah episode or in the self-help section of a bookstore.

It was quite a contrast from a Jesus who states uncomfortably and yet quite plainly: "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ~Luke 12:51-53

People may not like it... but it does not change that Jesus said it. So was he lying? Was he being

Continued on Page 4



Pastor's Message	1 & 4
Adult Bible Study	2
LWR School Kit Collection	3
2023 Fan Fever Dinner Auction	4
2023 Leadership Nominations	4
Great Washington Shakeout!	5
October Calendar	Insert



- CHURCH COUNCIL**
- 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.



2023 Stewardship

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE

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

AUG	Week 1:	\$3,837	
	Week 2:	\$5,611	
	Week 3:	\$2,970	
	Week 4:	<u>\$2,183</u>	
		\$14,601	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,650
SEP	Week 1:	\$2,810	
	Week 2:	\$2,095	
	Week 3:	\$7,895	
	Week 4:	<u>\$1,200</u>	
		\$14,000	
	Weekly Average:		\$3,500

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

PastorEric Griffith
 Secretary / BookkeeperKathy Corneloup
 Organist / Interim Music Director Seung Lee
 Special Music Ensemble Musicians
 Altar GuildSally Simpson

LWR SCHOOL KIT COLLECTION

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Because we believe in the truth and wisdom of the statements above, the Christian Response Committee is launching a funding drive for LWR School Kits. Our goal is to collect funds to put together 50+ kits. We must have these completed and ready to ship for the 2023 Fall Ingathering which



is November 3-4. Because LWR is very specific in the items they want included, our committee feels it would be better to collect the funds rather than the items. And also we will be able to make the dollars go further with bulk purchases.

We estimate \$20 per kit including the backpack, which is a simple drawstring canvas bag. We will have a sample kit in the Narthex and envelopes for your donation. Our goal is to ship 60 school kits. Please make checks payable to Wooden Cross and note "School Kits" in the memo line. The donation deadline is October 22 so we have time to order items and put together the kits before the Ingathering.

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!



CONSIDER SHARING YOUR VOICE!

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!

WOODEN CROSS LIVESTREAM



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.

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.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Reformation Day is October 31 and commemorates the Reformation movement started by Martin Luther in the 16th century. This year it is observed the Sunday before on October 29.



Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

Throughout the year we listen to the Sunday message—about how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we return to the core of our faith: God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.

We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that the bedrock of our faith is the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ.

ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION!

You are invited to join us for the **Annual Wooden Cross Dinner Auction—"Fan Fever!"** on **Saturday, November 4**. This free family-friendly event is a wonderful occasion to relax, visit, and enjoy a meal with friends. This lively evening of spirited bidding, food and live music from Marilyn & the G Strings Band is also a great opportunity for you to invite your neighbors, relatives and friends for an evening of fun and "fun"draising. There will be a Silent and a Live Auction with variety of items for ALL ages!



You can help support the auction fundraiser by donating items! There are many ways of donating. Consider re-gifting a new item; contact businesses you have a relationship with for a

2024 LEADERSHIP

The Nomination Committee is busy securing the nominees for open elected leadership positions on the Ministry and Mission Committees—Worship & Formation, Christian Response, Christian Connection, and the Finance Team for the year 2024.



Church Leadership

Nominees will be found in the willingness of members to commit their time and talents to leadership roles, and to active participation in ministries of special interest—around the abilities and talents they have to share.

The Nomination Committee has the responsibility to prepare the ballot of nominees for election at the **Annual Meeting and Brunch, on Sunday, January 21, 2024**. If you would like to serve on a committee, please contact one of the **Nomination Committee Members:** Steven Carlson, Art Hammers berg, Sherman Johnson and Doug Pearman.

donation or gift certificate; consider offering a service, or baking a special dish. Donation forms are available on the entrance table.

Proceeds from the annual auction will support Wooden Cross mission and ministry projects such as Acres of Diamonds, Camp Lutherwood, ELCA Disaster Response, Foss Home, Habitat for Humanity, Holden Village, HopeLink, LCS/Compass Housing Alliance, Local and World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, and Maltby Food Bank. *The Annual Auction is sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.* We appreciate your continued support and participation!

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

hyperbolic? Was he presenting a notion of faith and the cost of following him that wasn't really the case? Is Jesus simply trapped in some relic of an ancient mindset that we moderns have progressed beyond? Is it possible that Jesus was actually misrepresenting God and God's mission in the world?

Or...

Is following and faith in Jesus actually something that calls us, our whole self into a relationship with a God that does not share us with any other lesser gods or spirits or creations of human intuition or ingenuity. Does naming Jesus as our ground and source of faith and life in fact the very thing that constitutes being "Christian" distinct from something more generally "spiritual?"

And...

Is it God who is calling His people back to fidelity and faith in the name of Jesus... the name above all names... the name of the One to whom belongs all majesty and honor... the one who is Lord of Lord and King of Kings and apart from whom there may be a

simulacrum of life, but it is not the Life that comes from God alone through the One who died and rose again for you and from whom you have received life and faith and hope.

So which is it... Is Jesus wrong here or could it may be WE who get it wrong each time we skirt around the very particularity of faith and life that Jesus is actually the SOURCE thereof?

Perhaps naming Jesus isn't the problem here... perhaps NOT naming him and then living WITH him is. Only time will tell perhaps BUT for now and for us, the people of faith God gathers in ministry throughout Wooden Cross, let us persist in the name of Jesus and speak of His wonders and glory! Let us proclaim his life and death until the day he comes again trusting Him at his word.

May the name of Jesus ever be sweet on your lips and in your hearts!

In Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

revEric



THE GREAT WASHINGTON SHAKE-OUT!

To serve others during a regional crisis, such as an earthquake, People need to take time now to prepare their family for such an emergency. October is a good time for each family to get their homes and animals, vehicle backpacks, family provisions and medications ready to survive with little support for three months.

Churches, schools and families are also invited to participate in the Great Washington Shake-Out Drill on Thursday, October 19, 2021, at 10:19 AM. At 10:19 AM (local time) on 10/19, you can join millions of people across Washington practicing earthquake safety. While we encourage you to participate with everyone, you can register your Shake Out drill for any day of the year, and drill at a time of your choice. You

can also include people in multiple locations through video conferencing.

This drill means that wherever you are—at home, at work, at school, anywhere—you should Drop, Cover, and Hold On as if there were a major earthquake occurring at that very moment. For more information, visit: <https://www.shakeout.org/washington/>

Visit the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness website to help prepare a Family Emergency Communications Plan: <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies.html> Wooden Cross is a Red Cross emergency shelter which will serve the community should there be a major earthquake in our area.

CONNECT — GROW — SERVE

Wooden Cross October News, 2023

2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service	2 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	3 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	4 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 5:00-9:00p Facility Use: WGC (Sanctuary)	5 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	6 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	7
8 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	9 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	10 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts 7:00p Christian	11 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	12 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	13 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori	14
15 Stewardship Kickoff! 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Stewardship Temple Talk #1 November Newsletter Articles Due!	16 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	17 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	18 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary 7:00p Worship Zoom Mtg	19 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:19a Great Washington Shakeout 11:00-3:00 Quilters 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	20 Acorn Montessori Professional Day	21
22 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service LWR Quilt Display 11:30-3:00 Quilting & Brown Bag Lunch	23 Acorn Montessori Conferences 7:00p AA	24 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts	25 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 10:00a Adult Bible Study 2:00p Uke Group-Sanctuary	26 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 4:00-5:00p Handbell Rehearsal 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	27 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori Pumpkin Carving & Potluck	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:00 Community Prayer 10:00 Worship Service Stewardship Temple Talk #2 LWR Quilt Blessing	30 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7:00p AA	31 9-2:45 Acorn Montessori 7-9 p Boy Scouts				