



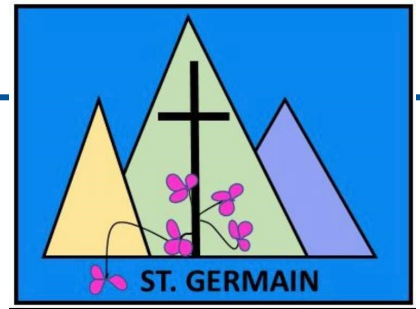
St. Germain's Episcopal Church
600 Lake Cushman Rd. (Hwy 119)
P.O. Box 222, Hoodspport, WA 98548

The MESSENGER

March 2024

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. "

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

So that ALL may know and serve God, our mission is to let the love of Christ shine brightly in our daily lives by being a welcoming, nurturing, and supportive community grounded in God's Word and Sacraments.

THE VICAR'S BRAIN - REV. BILL FULTON



Lenten Sermon 2024-02-24, edited for space

I'm taking an online watercolor workshop that meets every Saturday morning with our teacher, Eric Weigardt. Every other week we send in a painting for Eric to critique and help us improve as artists.

Yesterday one woman who lives on the East Coast sent in a painting she made of her neighbor's house. You remember that big storm that went through the Northeast a couple of weeks ago? A giant old tree was toppled right into her neighbor's house and sliced right through the roof while the wind was blowing and the rain was coming down in torrents.

Luckily no one was hurt, but the roof was letting the storm into their house, threatening to ruin everything they had. Right away several neighbors came over with ladders and hammers and started to cover the gash in the roof with tarps. They managed to stop the rain from causing very much damage at all. They got soaked, but they went home knowing they had done a good deed.

My artist friend took a photo of the men working in the rainstorm and then she made a painting of the scene. You could see the roots of the tree sticking up out of the yard and the men on ladders, stretching out the blue tarp, the rain coming down, the tree branches swaying in the storm. It was a good painting.

I thought, yes, that's what neighbors do when disaster strikes. We stop what we're doing and get together to help our neighbor. We don't think about our comfort or our liability or our petty grievances, we just jump in and help. We learn to sacrifice our comfort for the good of the other.

I was thinking about this when I read the Gospel lesson for today. Jesus tells the disciples that he's going to suffer and be killed and rise from the dead and Peter can't stand this thought.

Peter rebukes Jesus. He says, "Lord, this must never happen!" Of course, Peter loves Jesus and he doesn't want to think of him suffering and dying. So he objects. Jesus reacts strongly. He says, "Get behind me, Satan! You're setting your mind not on divine things but on human things!"

Then he goes on to say, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and the sake of the gospel will save it."

This is among the hardest sayings in the Bible. If we want to become Jesus' followers, we must deny ourselves and

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Donna O'Leary, Administrator

Bishop's Committee

Carrie Sharp, Senior Warden
Peggy Pennington, Junior Warden
Jerry Jasper, Treasurer
Joanne Hash
Kathryn Jasper
Kit Brooks
Amy Leonard

Volunteer Leaders

Amy Leonard, Newsletter
Alec Pennington, Facilities
Skip Hash, Usher and attendance

Altar Guild Volunteers

Joanne Hash, Director
Peggy Pennington
Katy Fulton

**We are an inclusive, welcoming
community of faith and**

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME HERE!**

Please visit our Facebook page
St Germain Episcopal Church

Sunday Service livestream



BISHOP'S COMMITTEE



The Bishop's Committee meets monthly for the purpose of conducting church business. Our members are caring folks who are willing to share their own faith, perspective and experience to engage with other members to collaboratively manage the affairs of the church with a view toward a faith-filled, sustainable future.

Everyone is invited to join us for our monthly meeting and learn about current events, stay abreast of church ministries, finances, status updates, proposals, and more. There is a standing meeting on the third **Tuesday** of each month at **10 AM**.

At the February meeting, Carrie Sharp was elected as Senior Warden, Peggy Pennington was elected as Junior Warden and Donna O'Leary was elected as church administrator.

In March, the Bishop Committee meeting will be incorporated into a day long, sack lunch retreat at a separate location (tbd).



WOMEN ON A MISSION

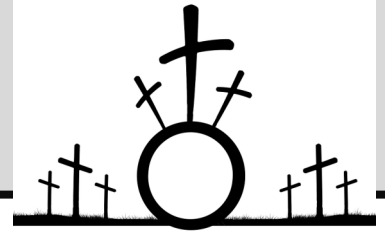
The **Women's Group** meets every **Wednesday** in the parish hall from **11 am - 1 pm** for spiritual growth and event planning.

We spend the first hour checking in and sharing a reading and reflection; all women are welcome to bring something to share. The second hour of our meeting is usually devoted to event planning and administering our outreach ministries. The last Wednesday of the month we chair the Evangelism and Hospitality Committee at noon and **everyone** is invited to attend.

Upcoming projects include the comfort drive, the Market and Music on the Hill, Senior Outreach and the Annual Rummage sale. Join us to help with any and all of these amazing projects!

Please join us for Good Friday Service

March 29th At Noon



“A Case for Love” by Donna O’Leary

On January 23, Episcopalians from all over the country gathered in theaters to watch *A Case for Love*. I attended with a group from my hometown church in California. Based on the writings of Bishop Michael Curry, the film makes the case that unselfish love, a love that crossed the boundaries of religion, race, sexual orientation, and class, has the power to heal the divisions that everyone is experiencing. It “asks what unselfish (radical) love looks like in today’s world, at a time when division, estrangement, and hatred seem to be as strong as ever. The 13 stories in the movie invite us on a personal journey, reflecting on ways in which we may experience sacrificial love, and then embody it for others in our lives, communities, and the world.” It was an invitation to an ongoing journey. The producers have provided a journal and a study guide. For Lent this year, rather than giving something up, I have chosen to take something on – specifically, the journal. Based on the study guide, you are invited to observe and note, not only what unselfish acts of love you do, but what you see around you, and the effects of unselfish love on yourself and others. It is not necessary to have seen the movie. *Learn more at <https://acaseforlovemovie.com/>*

Easter is Sunday,

March 31st.

Join us for service at 10:30 AM.

Good Friday by Bill Fulton

When I was a teenager, we sang the hymn “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” about a million times around a campfire. At least it seemed like a million times. I remember thinking, “What a dumb question. Of course I wasn’t there. That was almost two thousand years ago.”

Since then, however, I’ve come to realize it’s not a dumb question at all. This spiritual came from people who were torn from their African homeland, survived the death journey of slave ships, and were sold heartlessly into perpetual toil and misery on plantations.

When slaves heard the story of the crucifixion read from the white man’s Bible, they instinctively identified with Jesus on the cross. His suffering was their suffering. When they sang, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” their answer was, “Yes, we were there.” In heart and soul, in imagination and empathy, they were there.

Identifying with Jesus’ suffering helped them bear their own suffering. They knew that Jesus was with them in their most difficult times.

On Good Friday, the Church gathers to mark the crucifixion of Jesus. The purpose of the Good Friday liturgy is to help us be there in the last hours of Jesus’ life. It is the core of the Christian story, the most powerful moment, and the deepest mystery of the faith. As the song says, “Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.”

Will you be there on Good Friday? I will.

Intercessory Prayer List

Please sign the prayer request list at the church, or email the editor at agyle2061@gmail.com. You may include the need if you choose.

This month we are praying for Joanne, Karen, Savannah, Sarah, Karla, Bea, Shi, Justin, Donna, Rebecca, Leslie, Wanda, Judy and Tim. May they receive abundant health and healing, through Jesus with whom all things are possible.



Happy Birthday!

If your day is missed, please make sure that Donna or Amy gets birthday date information.

March 25 Gerry Frye

April 5 Alec Pennington

HOOD CANAL FOOD BANK

St. Germain donates food and money to the Hood Canal Food Bank which distributes food every first and third Mondays of the month at the Hoodsport Fire Station. **We take donations on the first and third Sundays at our worship service.** Please bring food in cans (meal in a can like chili or pasta or fruit) and dried or boxed foods. Also please avoid glass jars that might break. When you go shopping for your family put in a couple of items for the Food Bank.



Tall Timbers Presents Concerts at St. Germain's March 2024



March 2nd at 3 pm

Wes Wedell & Alicia Healey



Wes Wedell has worked multiple shifts in the engine room of Seattle's roots music scene as frontman, sideman,

writer, teacher, and community-builder. "Always heartfelt and well constructed" (Seattle Weekly), listeners have come to expect Wedell's regionally rooted songs to "speak for themselves" (No Depression).

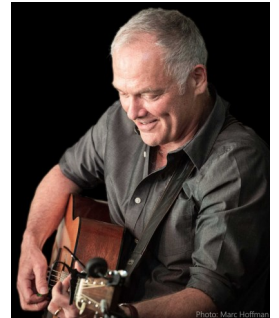
Alicia Healey is a powerful vocalist, songwriter, producer and studio owner in Seattle, WA. From country to pop/rock and back again, her style of alt-folk is led by her smooth vocals, engaging guitar and great songs (originals and covers). She is a storyteller who taps into the significance of insignificant moments. Her fresh arrangements of popular tunes round out her musical and poetic performances.

March 23rd at 3 pm

Larry Murante

Singer-songwriter Larry Murante is well known for his soaring, mellifluous tenor, strong rhythmic guitar style, and engaging

stage presence. He performs originals and covers. His award-winning original songs combine compassionate, socially conscious lyrics with an upbeat, joyful folk-rock style.



Got firewood?

We have wood available behind the community room. If you, or someone you know can use it, it is free for the taking. We need it picked up **by March 31st** so that we can continue landscaping projects.



"We gratefully acknowledge the Skokomish Indian Tribe and all Indigenous Peoples. Our building and facilities stand on the traditional land of the people, whose ancestors have resided here since time immemorial. We honor and thank them for their culture, resilience, and indigenous identity."

take up our cross and follow him. I would rather think about the passage in the Gospel of John where Jesus says, “I came to be a shepherd; that my flock might have life, and have it abundantly.”

To me, Jesus is the model of the abundant life. He shows us how to live with grace and compassion and health. He models what it means to be a whole human being. Yet here in Mark he says, “You must deny yourself and take up your cross.”

So which is it? Well, I think it’s both. There are times when we focus on living a life like Jesus, which is a life of abundance. We try to live with wisdom and compassion for others and we try to take care of ourselves. But there are also times when we live a life of self-denial.

Sometimes we choose a life of self-denial. When we’re raising our kids, we give up a lot of our own lives for them. That’s self-denial. When we choose to help at the Food Bank instead of going out to eat, that’s self-denial. When we listen patiently to a friend who’s going through a hard time, that’s self-denial.

But it seems to me that often self-denial is thrust upon us, like when a tree comes through our neighbor’s roof. There are times when we are forced to step up and sacrifice for the good of the whole. When WWII was declared our whole country stepped up to meet the challenge. Men volunteered to serve in the Army. Women learned to live with scrimping and saving and rationing. Some women served in the armed forces. As a country, we practiced self-denial.

Now I don’t think anyone asked for that. No one wanted to make the sacrifices for the war effort, but I think you would agree that it was good for our country. We learned to work together for a common goal. We learned that every person, no matter what their race or religion, is part of the same effort and is equally valued. WWII was a great leveler of society.

So self-denial, even when it is thrust upon us, can be a good thing. Some willingly take up the role of self-denial. Think about Alexei Navalny, the Russian dissident who was jailed and taken to a prison above the arctic circle because he dared to challenge the power of President Vladimir Putin. Navalny left Russia for his own safety, but he chose to come back and speak the truth about Putin’s corruption, even though he knew he would suffer as a result, and very likely be killed for his opposition. And so it turned out.

Navalny converted to Christianity a few years before his death. He said that the passage in Matthew motivated him, “Blessed are you who are persecuted for righteousness sake.” He knew that he had done the right thing and he was willing to pay the price for it.

It seems to me that we’ve forgotten about self-denial in our country. It seems like all people care about is entitlement. I deserve this, I deserve that. We’re all scrambling to get to the top, to get the most toys. What happened to self-denial, the idea that we all sacrifice something for the common good? I don’t hear that so much anymore. When was the last time a politician asked us to sacrifice for our country? I don’t remember.

I’ll bet that you can think of a time in your life when you sacrificed one thing in order to accomplish something bigger. Maybe you swallowed your pride and stayed quiet so someone else could get credit for something they worked for. I know, that’s hard.

Maybe you gave up an afternoon a week to help tutor a kid who needed to learn to read. That feels good, too. Maybe you spent an hour listening to a friend who needed to vent to you and you held back from telling them how you would have dealt with the situation. That’s a kind of self-denial. It may not have felt good at the time, but looking back you get a sense of satisfaction that you were there for them.

Now I don’t mean to say that we are to constantly deny ourselves. I don’t think we’re supposed to be doormats, let other people walk all over us. That’s not healthy. But self-denial, self-sacrifice, in the right way, that’s part of being a healthy, human being.

When you get up in the middle of a rainstorm and put on your coat to help your neighbor cover their roof with a tarp, it’s an act of self-denial. But the next day, the next week, it feels good. Jesus said, “If any would be my followers, let them deny themselves and take up my cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and the sake of the Gospel, will save it.”