



NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2025

ST. GERMAIN HOODSPORT

[www.saintgermainhoodsport.org](http://www.saintgermainhoodsport.org)

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

## THE VICAR'S BRAIN - Rev. Bill Fulton



On New Year's Eve, our neighbors invited us to a bonfire in their yard. When we arrived about 10:30 pm, this delightful young couple and their seven-year-old daughter were gathered around a fire pit with a dozen or so of their young friends. Someone was strumming a guitar, there were adult beverages and marshmallows on sticks, and the firelight drew us all into a cozy circle.

Veronica, our host, asked us if we'd like to participate in her New Year's Eve ritual. She had gathered bundles of tall grass, sage, laurel branches, and dried weeds for everyone to make their bundle of hope for the New Year, tied up with a piece of twine. She also provided small pieces of paper and a pen.

We wrote our regrets for 2024 on the paper and dropped them into a fire pot to watch them go up in smoke. Then we took our bundles of hope and threw them into the bonfire. Everyone in the circle murmured in approval or cheered as each person thrust their bundle into the fire.

Veronica said she created this ritual because she wanted their New Year celebration to be meaningful. I think it was a very creative way to be intentional about entering the new year.

It made me wonder if there is an equivalent ritual in the church. Perhaps the "Renewal of our Baptismal Covenant" that we recite several times a year, but it seems so drab and rote compared to a bonfire. I wonder if we could make it more intentional.

Young people are looking for rituals that give meaning to their lives. I applaud them for that. But I also remember the rituals established by the church which provide such a depth of meaning. The Eucharist which plunges us into the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The Sacrament of Baptism which signifies our new life in Christ.

I cherish our rituals. To me they give great meaning and comfort, and I hope I'll never let them become bland or boring.

*Bill*



**Join us Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
for Holy Communion**

**Potluck on the last Sunday of the  
month after the service**

Many of us grew up Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian and other faiths.

You will find yourself very familiar with our liturgy and our celebration of Holy Communion. Our doors are open to **ALL** and we believe that a community of diversity and acceptance starts in a safe and inclusive place of worship.

You are welcome to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect. No matter your identity or orientation, you are always welcome here!



## **OUR MISSION:**

*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 that is grounded in God's Word and Sacraments.*

## **OUR VISION**

*Be the inclusive people of God*



**"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."**

# ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th immediately following the service after a short break for coffee and refreshments.

The Annual Meeting, required by the by-laws, is the annual gathering for the entire congregation where the church's congregational business occurs. The meeting typically includes reflections from the previous year, reports, and an overview of the upcoming year's budget presented for approval. Elections will be held for 2-3 new members. New members are chosen by lot and nominations from the floor. If you are interested in serving and for more information, please feel free to let anyone on the Bishop's Committee know. You can submit your name in the box located in the parish hall.

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

### OPENING PRAYER

### CALL TO ORDER

### DECLARATION OF QUORUM

### ELECTION OF CLERK

### APPROVAL OF 2024 MINUTES

### REPORTS

Vicar's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Other Reports

### SELECTION OF NEW BISHOP'S COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ratification of New Members

### ELECTION OF 2 DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATE(S)

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Final 2024 Report

Presentation of 2025 Budget

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OTHER BUSINESS

### CLOSING PRAYER

### ADJOURNMENT

## BISHOP'S COMMITTEE



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 on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.** to learn about current events, stay abreast of church ministries, finances, status updates, proposals, and more.

### *Our Vision*

*Be the inclusive people of God.*

### *Our Covenant*

*To be an example to the believers in speech, life, love, faith, and purity.*

*O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

## What is Epiphany?



The feast of the Epiphany is January 6th, twelve days after Christmas. Epiphany means "manifestation" or "revelation" or "appearing". It makes sense that Epiphany season comes right after Christmas. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus; Epiphany is about the spread of the good news to the wider world.

The Feast of the Epiphany centers on the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem. In the Christmas story that St. Matthew tells us, wise men from the East study the stars and the prophecies, and detect the birth of the Savior. They travel to Bethlehem to pay homage to Jesus Christ, and they bring with them gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. The Gospel account doesn't say that there are three magi, nor that they are kings. Over the years, our Christian ancestors described them as three kings named Balthesar, Melchior, and Caspar (although in different cultures they have different names!)

During the Season of Epiphany, we strive to be more mindful of the world around us, and to realize our call to carry the Light of Christ and make it known in our homes, in our places of work and leisure, in our towns and countries, and beyond. The liturgical color of the season is green, representing the green things of God's earth and referring to growth of the Spirit of God within us in response to His coming at Christmas.

### LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

**Second Sunday after Christmas Day – January 5, 2025** - Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12 - Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 - Ephesians 1:3-14 - John 1:(1-9), 10-18

**Epiphany of the Lord - January 6, 2025** - Isaiah 60:1-6 - Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 - Ephesians 3:1-12 - Matthew 2:1-12

**Baptism of the Lord - January 12, 2025** - Isaiah 43:1-7 - Psalm 29 - Acts 8:14-17 - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany - January 19, 2025** - Isaiah 62:1-5 - Psalm 36:5-10 - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 - John 2:1-11

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany - January 26, 2025** - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 - Psalm 19 - 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a - Luke 4:14-21

## REFLECTIONS

by Curtis Pennington

Peggy and Alec Pennington  
graciously share these reflections by  
Alec's dad.

### *My Guide*

*Jesus is my guide  
He came to earth  
With thoughts so Devine  
To set us on the path  
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus gave the word  
On the meaning of life  
That we might know the  
Father who provides us all  
A life of truth, joy and love.  
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus walked among us with a  
healing touch  
And words of life so true  
That we might know the spirit of  
God that sets us free.  
Hallelujah.*

*Jesus gave his life upon the cross  
In pain and suffering  
As he called us to the Father  
So we might know his spirit in our  
lives.  
Hallelujah.*

## WOMEN'S GROUP

**Wednesdays 11 am - 1pm**



We spend the first hour checking in, and sharing our monthly topic. The second hour of our meeting is devoted to event planning and administering our outreach ministries. Bring a lunch and if you have a craft to do while we meet (knitting, drawing, etc.) feel free to bring it. Please join us...all women from the community are welcome to attend!



**This month the Director of our Altar Guild, Joanne Hash, will be joining us to explain the duties and responsibilities of our Altar Guild.** Volunteers prepare the church and the chapel for worship. Their ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards. It is our hope that the women's group will take on this vital ministry so that we can all step in on a rotating basis.

*Gracious God, bless your Church and all who minister at the altars and care for sacred vessels and linens. Give us an awareness of beauty and mindfulness in holy places that we may enable others to worship and set forward the coming of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.*



**ST. GERMAIN CHURCH HOODSPORT presents**



**Music** *on the* **Hill**



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup> 2 – 3:30 p.m.**



**Tom McLaughlin** is a local musician in the Lake Cushman area. A multi-instrumentalist who loves to sing and play, especially for and with friends and neighbors. Joining Tom is **Michael McElrath**, Tom's long-time musical compadre, a fine singer and songwriter visiting us from Decorah, Iowa to share his songs and stories. With three albums under his belt, he is a mid-west favorite!



**Tom and Mike ask that instead of donations going to them, they would appreciate an appropriate donation to support our local Hood Canal Food Bank!**

## CONNECTIONS

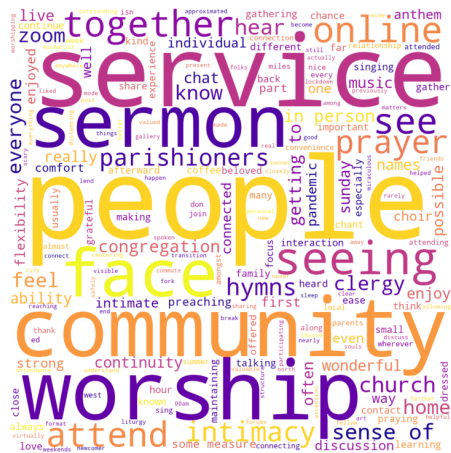
**Visit our website at**  
**stgermainhoodsport.org**

**Sermons are posted on our  
YouTube channel at  
Saint Germain Church677**



**Watch a live stream of our  
Sunday service on our  
Facebook page.**

## St. Germain's Church Hoodsport



## Volunteer Leaders

## Events Coordinator - Peggy Pennington

**Eucharistic Ministers** - Kathryn Jasper, Donna O'Leary, Amy Leonard, Teresa Schenk-Stephens, Kit Brooks

## Head Usher - Skip Hash

**Music Director - Carrie Sharp**

**Newsletter** - Amy Leonard, Donna O'Leary

## Altar Guild Director - Joanne Hash

(Peggy Pennington, Katy Fulton)

**Church Groundskeeper - Carrie Sharp**

## Facilities - Alec Pennington

## Memorial Garden Sexton - Skip Hash

**Treasurer - Donna O'Leary**



**St. Germain's Episcopal Church**  
**600 N. Lake Cushman Rd. - P. O. Box 222**  
**Hoodsport, WA 98548**  
**360-877-9879**

## Connect to Staff

The Rev. Bill Fulton, Vicar, [billfulton2001@yahoo.com](mailto:billfulton2001@yahoo.com)  
Donna O'Leary, Church Office Administrator, [stgermainoffice600@gmail.com](mailto:stgermainoffice600@gmail.com)

## The Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden - Carrie Sharp

Junior Warden - Peggy Pennington

People's Warden - Amy Leonard

Joanne Hash - Kathryn Jasper - Kit Brooks