



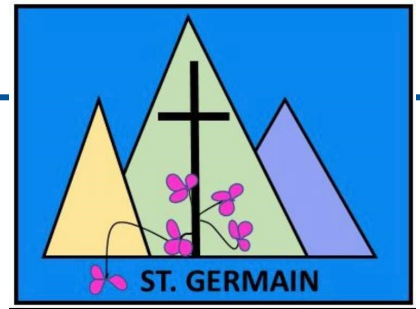
St. Germain's Episcopal Church
600 Lake Cushman Rd. (Hwy 119)
P.O. Box 222, Hoodspport, WA 98548

The MESSENGER

December

"Author Glennon Doyle Melton wrote, 'Every time we open our mouths and speak, we are either saying let their be light or let their be darkness.'"

— Max Lucado



THE VICAR'S BRAIN - REV. BILL FULTON



When our boys were young, they loved to open the little windows on the Advent calendar. Katy always found the most creative Advent calendars at the bookstore in our little town. The ones I remember best featured a painting of the nativity scene with placid cows, alert donkeys, and reverent wise men gathered around the manger.

Each day the boys were allowed to open one of the paper windows. They took turns because they both wanted to be the one who would reveal the tiny picture inside the paper flap. Each day they learned a little more of the Christmas story. We all loved the slow buildup of

anticipation as the windows revealed more and more of the story. When we finally reached Christmas Eve, the boys were more than ready for Christmas (and so were we!).

Anticipation is the theme of Advent. The word Advent means 'coming.' We're anticipating the coming of Christ. Just as Mary waited during her nine months of pregnancy for the baby Jesus to be born, Advent calls us to anticipate the coming of Christ. We anticipate the coming of Christ in three ways: in the annual celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas Day; in the hearts of believers; and in the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the age.

I don't know about you, but I need to be reminded that Christ comes into our hearts. Just as the baby Jesus was born in a stable two thousand years ago, Christ is born in our hearts every Christmas Eve. That's the purpose of

Advent, to remind us that Christ is continually coming into our hearts.

In the Episcopal Church, we're quite restrained in our celebration of Advent and Christmas. We don't plunge into Christmas carols and Christmas decorations the day after Thanksgiving, but we hold back. We remember the words of the prophets who were waiting expectantly for the Messiah, and we remember John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus.

I hope this Advent will be a joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ for all of us at St. Germain's and for the whole world. —Bill



Worship on Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24,
10:30 AM.
Holy communion
with carols.
Coffee hour fellowship will
feature hot spiced cider
and home baked cookies.

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.

St. Germain Episcopal Church

600 Lake Cushman Rd.

P.O. Box 222

Hoodsport, WA 98548

360-877-9879

saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com

stgermainhoodsport.org

The Rev. Bill Fulton, Vicar

Bishop's Committee

Donna O'Leary Senior Warden

Kathryn Jasper, Junior Warden

Jerry Jasper, Treasurer

Joanne Hash

Patricia Lakeman

Carrie Sharp

Volunteer Leaders

Peggy Pennington, Events

Amy Leonard, Newsletter

Alec Pennington, Facilities

Altar Guild Volunteers

Joanne Hash, Director

Peggy Pennington

Katy Fulton

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

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME HERE!**

**Join us for Sunday morning
service at 10:30 am**

**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. The last meeting focused on the upcoming stewardship campaign. This month's meeting is **Tuesday, November 21st at 10 AM.**

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.

November saw our Christmas Bazaar raise over \$600 for our ongoing mission. See photos on page 3 of this incredible community event. In addition, we provided a chance for the Foothills Dog Park to fund raise with Santa Paws, and for our beloved local handcraft vendors to sell their wares.

Member Birthdays December

Joanne Hash 12-4

Judi Hodge 12-23

Donna O'Leary 12-25

**Birthday List is
BACK!! If you are
missed, please make
sure that Donna or
Amy gets your info.)**

2024 Stewardship

Please make sure your pledge cards are completed and turned in. Thanks! And remember there are many volunteer hours needed as well.



Christmas Bazaar!



(Photos left to right) Jan and Molly visit with Santa Paws. Rose admiring one of the many vendors wares. May Williams with her husband John's delicious scones has become a fixture at all our markets. Thanks to all who shopped, volunteered and sold at our event.



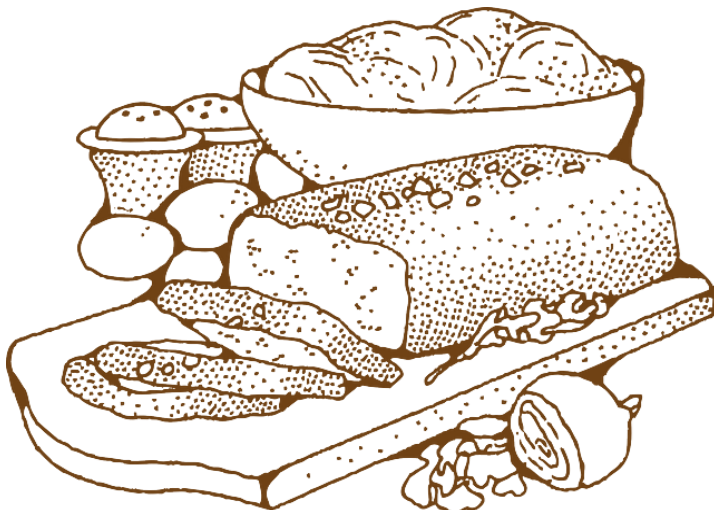
Longevity Class: Improve health

Through the wet winter days, we still need to keep moving and Coach Andrea is here to help. She offers her services on a donation basis: pay what you can. Andrea has been in the health and fitness industry for over 32 years; come join her for some strength training, balance and cardio. **Meet in the community room on Tuesdays through the winter months at 9 AM.** All ability levels accommodated; please bring a mat, water and small hand weights if you have them (we have a few extras if needed).



"We gratefully acknowledge the Skokomish Indian Tribe and all Indigenous Peoples. This 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."

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 Hoodport 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. During the holidays, please consider increasing your donations so that all of our neighbors can share in the blessings of God's bounty.

MUSINGS by Amy Leonard

I endeavor in my musings to examine life, spirit and the human experience. Email me atargyle2061@gmail.com.



As my plane flew east into the darkness of an early November evening, I thought how my travel path is similar to the season of advent. As we head farther into the darkness, we can only hope for the light. Below me the streets are outlined by lamps, and the beams of a thousand cars' headlights shine on the freeway. As beautiful as this sight is, the man-made light is artificial and it's glow unreal; no replacement for longer days of sunlight.

The physical lack of daylight, certainly a problem for those of us living close to the 45th parallel, mimics a lack of light in our spiritual lives. We celebrate Jesus's birthday near the solstice to remind us of the light we feel when we hold him in our hearts. And it's not just the glow of the flame of love, but we can feel lighter, less weighed down by the stress of modern life. There are times, particularly when in group prayer, when I feel my spirit lifted and my body feels lighter, floaty, ethereal.

I often wonder how our world might change if more of us could have this feeling of calm, enlightened love. But with more wars happening in our world, peace seems as elusive as light. If only our prayers could be conjoined, a chorus of human voices chanting "peace, peace, peace." I feel like this could light up our world and make us a beacon in the universe.

For now, the season of advent reminds us not to fear. To know God and Jesus, and to trust the light, that the longer days of sunshine will return to our precious Pacific Northwest in time. We need only hold out hope, and keep our own lights shining.

God loves everyone.
No exceptions.

The Episcopal Church welcomes you.



Advent



The season of Advent begins on December 3rd and continues to Christmas day on December 25. Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year. With the shortening of days it is also a season of introspection for Christians, and some people choose to fast.

To mark the passing of the weeks in advent, Episcopalians light Advent candles. There are four weekly candles typically 3 purple and one pink candle. The fifth white candle is lit on Christmas day, and the Christmas season begins!!

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 **John, Wanda, Madeleine, and Therese**. May they receive abundant health and healing, through Jesus with whom all things are possible.



Thanks Were Given

Bill and Katy Fulton hosted a beautiful Thanksgiving potluck this year. The hosts provided a turkey and our talented cooking congregation filled out the rest of the feast. We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday, and will join us next year for this special meal.

