



NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2024

ST. GERMAIN HOODSPORT

www.saintgermainhoodsport.org

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

THE VICAR'S BRAIN - Rev. Bill Fulton



When I see homeless people this time of year, I think of how miserable their lives must be. It's one thing to be living outdoors in the summer when the temperature is pleasant, but living on the street in the winter must be a daily struggle.

Trying to keep warm and dry, trying to get enough to eat, finding a warm place to sleep; it's a fight for survival.

When I think of Mary and Joseph coming into Bethlehem and finding no place in the inn, I think of them as the homeless people of their time. Joseph was a lowly carpenter and Mary was very young. Undoubtedly they were poor people.

Their journey to Bethlehem was surely a hardship, and when they arrived, there was no place for them to stay. They were homeless. Luckily, they found a place in a stable with the animals, but it wasn't very comfortable.

So this Christmas season, I will try to look at the homeless with softer eyes. I will try to imagine them as Mary and Joseph. When I think of people who struggle to pay the rent, who can't afford luxuries for their kids, who are just barely making it, I will try to see them as the holy family of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

Our Lord came down from heaven not into a comfortable middle class family, but into a humble, poor family. Christmas tells us that God cares about the least among us. God cares about the poor.

This Christmas, our family will give a little extra to the Food Bank and other charities that benefit the poor. It's our way of remembering the Christ who came to earth as a child.

*"He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy." (Hymn 102)*

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. The food bank barrel is located in the parish hall.

Consider canned goods, personal hygiene products, baby food, pet food and other household items as well.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS NEEDED BY THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th

Christmas is one of the busiest times of the year for food banks. Healthy, non-perishable food items are even more in a higher demand around the holidays. While you are shopping for your Thanksgiving, please consider donating items such as: boxed stuffing, instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, pumpkin, applesauce. *Thank you!*



Everything you do at St. Germain's makes a difference. We are grateful for each and every one of you for your vision, dedication, time, energies and talent!

A sign-up sheet is in the parish hall for volunteers to be Sunday greeters/ushers, readers, and coffee hosts.

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.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your 2025 pledges. Your support is vital to our ongoing efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive space where individuals can experience God's love and find solace and strength. Your pledge is not just financial support; it represents a shared commitment to our vision of spreading love, hope, and compassion.

We are committed to being good stewards of your donation and will use it wisely to continue making a positive impact in the lives of others.

May God's abundant love and blessings be poured out upon you, and may your generosity be multiplied in ways beyond measure.

*Blessings and peace
from Your Bishop's Committee*

ADVENT



The word Advent means “coming.” It is a time for us to slow down, be quiet and meditate about the real meaning of Christmas. These four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our hearts and our lives as we wait for the coming of Jesus. We focus on the promise that God made to his people and how that promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Advent is also the beginning of the liturgical year. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on the day before Christmas. It may be a time for new beginning for us as Christians.

The symbol of Advent is the Advent wreath, a wreath with three blue (or purple) candles, and one pink candle. The traditional significance of four candles is simply in their count-down to the Advent of Christ. Each Sunday in Advent a candle is lit (lighting the pink candle on the third Sunday) until, on the Fourth Sunday, all four candles are lit. Some Advent wreaths, like ours, will also have a white pillar candle in the middle. The white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and symbolizes the light of Christ that has come into the world.

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.



*Worship with us on Christmas
Eve Tuesday, December 24th
at NOON
Holy communion with carols.*



THIS SATURDAY !

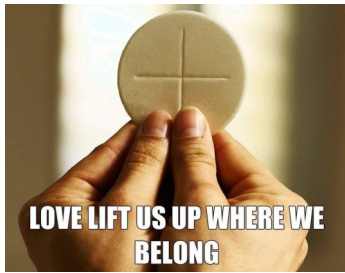
Support Lacey and Kevin's Journey for Noah

**STOP BY OUR TENT OUTSIDE CANALSIDE STARTING AT 2:30 p.m. AND
PICK UP SOME HANDMADE/HOMEMADE GIFTS**

The Hoodsport business community is pleased to announce the third annual holiday downtown Hoodsport celebration – Yule Tide! families can enjoy activities, food and local shopping and festivities during the afternoon through early evening at businesses throughout town.



This year we are donating ALL our proceeds to Support Lacey and Kevin's Journey for Noah. The funds will go directly to them to help costs for their family. Noah was born at 24 weeks weighing 1 lb. 6 oz. The entire community has come together to help this wonderful family with a GoFundMe page, meal train, donations from the Food Bank and more.



**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."

REFLECTIONS by Curtis Pennington

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

The Greatest Gift

At Christmas time we search

And we search

And Search

For the perfect gift

To express our love

One to another.

Yet the search is in vain

For our greatest gift

Is our love.

To be given through expression

Not through material values.

The greatest gift was born of God

And given to man

To be expressed in praise and thanksgiving

To the Father and one to another

Knowing peace and light

Through all our days.

The greatest gift is

A loving word

A healing touch

A warm embrace

Extended by an open heart

Without expectation.

The greatest gift is

To allow the Christ within to shine forth

Expressing love to all

That we may be filled

With joy and fullness of life.

CONNECTIONS

Our monthly newsletter

The Messenger is found on the website. To receive the newsletter email us at

saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com

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

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

Donna O'Leary, Church Office Administrator, 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