



St. Germain Hoodsport

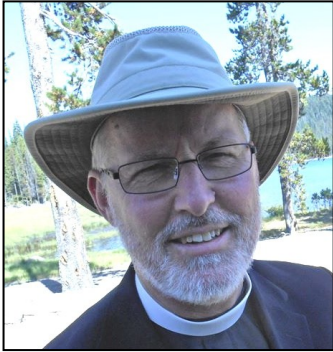
www.saintgermainhoodsport.org

NEWSLETTER

November 2025

HAPPENINGS ON THE HILL

THE VICAR'S BRAIN - Rev. Bill Fulton



Everyone loves Christmas. Some people I know love Christmas so much they keep their Christmas tree up all year. It makes the house look cheerful and woodsy. After all, Christmas means warmth, family, generosity, gift-giving. What's not to like?

Christmas means memories. When we put our Christmas tree up, it reminds me of when I was a little boy in awe of the mysterious lights and the excruciating wait for Christmas morning when

we would open our presents.

Our parents put the Christmas tree up long before Christmas and the presents slowly accumulated under the tree. "Can't we open just one?" we begged. "No, you have to wait for Christmas morning," came the reply.

When I was a teen, our youth group went caroling from door to door in our small town. People would stand on the porch to listen, then bring out a plate of cookies for us to grab. I remember the snap of cold air, the sound of our voices ringing out in front yards, and the awkwardness of knocking on doors.

I remember getting a small Christmas gift allowance from my mother to buy presents for my brother and sisters, and carefully browsing the stores for something they'd like that didn't cost very much; the puzzling challenge of ribbons, scotch tape, and wrapping paper; and the hidden pleasure of keeping your gifts a secret.

But especially I remember Christmas Eve services at church. The lights were dimmed and we held candles as we sang the magical words of "Silent Night". The minister intoned the hushed words of Holy Communion and we came to the altar rail to kneel and eat a strange-tasting wafer and slug a tiny glass of grape juice (we were Methodists; we shunned wine).

All these memories are like wrapping paper for the gift inside the box. The memories resonate within me, they fill me and comfort me. But I wonder, "Did I ever really appreciate the true gift inside the wrapping paper?"

That's what I hope to ponder this Christmas.

Bill

O Come All Ye Faithful
Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, December 24, 2025
Noon





**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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Many of our members work behind the scenes, and while you may have seen her at services, Veronica Garcia has been working diligently at St. Germain's for the better part of seven years.

Veronica has many talents and has shared most of them with us. As a member of the Altar Guild, Veronica helps keep the linens and supplies ready to go, makes sure the elements are ready on Sundays, and helps with flowers and other parts of the altar to keep it beautiful.

This year she painted the sacristy, and the bright red door of our office; sweat in the garden; and worked at many of the fundraising events.

Veronica has also leant her artistic eye to creating memorable displays for various holidays such as All Souls Day, Veterans Day and others.

While Veronica has shared her talents without reservation, I think many of us would agree that the very best thing she shares with us are her amazing hugs!

December Birthdays

December 4 Joanne Hash

December 25 Donna O'Leary

O God, our times are in your hand:

Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen them who trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

If your name does not appear in our birthday list please let Amy or Donna know so that we can add you and celebrate your special day.



Volunteer Luncheon

If you donate one hour or a hundred, we want to celebrate ALL our volunteers at a luncheon on Wednesday, December 17th at 11 AM. This will be just prior to our monthly Bishop's Committee meeting at noon. We will send an email invitation as well, so look for that soon.

Feeding our neighbors

The Hood Canal Food Bank is a non-profit organization that provides nutritious food with dignity to our neighbors in need in Hoodsport and the Lower Hood Canal area, through donations and the work of dedicated volunteers.

The food bank is a fully 100% volunteer-based organization. Dozens of people volunteer many hours to keep our food bank functioning. Please put your non-perishable donations in the barrel by the parish hall for volunteers to take to the food bank.

The need for food is not just during the holidays, please remember to continue to provide for our neighbors in need throughout the year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our involvement with the Food Bank began because of our concern for the community. The food was first distributed from our church on the occasion of a strike by the Simpson workers in Shelton in the early 80's.

How to Contribute

The most secure way to make your regular donations to St. Germain's is by setting up automatic payments on your bank's website. By adding St. Germain's as a "Payee" and using your bank's automatic bill pay process, we receive a paper check which is counted regularly with the monies put into the plate on Sundays. If you are set up on bill pay through your regular bank you may send your donation in that way. Our address and bill pay info is as follows:

St. Germain Episcopal Church
PO Box 222
Hoodsport, WA 98548

Otherwise, you can write a check and put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Pledge envelopes are available in the parish hall. Also, cash can be placed in an envelope and placed in the offering bowl. Again, thank you with all our hearts for your pledge, your presence, and your engagement in God's mission as it is expressed at St. Germain's.

Please remember to pick up your copy of Forward Day by Day in the parish hall.

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's *Book of Common Prayer*. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author.



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 to learn about current events, stay abreast of church ministries, finances, status updates, proposals, and more.

December's meeting is Wednesday, December 17th at NOON. This is a change of time.

Also, two of our committee members will be completing their term of service in January. We will need replacements for them, so please pray and discern if this is something you could help with. No special skills needed other than a willingness to help keep St. Germain a vibrant church.

WOMEN'S GROUP



NEW MEETING TIME and DAY. Yes, we are changing again. The trial of second and fourth Mondays was not working out. We are keeping the earlier time of 9 AM but going back to every Wednesday. This may be early for some of us, so wear your comfy clothes, and we will have coffee ready. We spend the first hour checking in, and sharing spiritual readings: currently using the book *Dancing from the Inside Out*. The second hour of our meeting is for hands on work, event planning or whatever needs to be addressed. Bring a snack 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!

NEW DAY & TIME:
Wednesdays from 9 AM to 11 AM

Blue Christmas Service

The lead up to Christmas is a busy time for many, and not always a time of joy for some of us. Memories of those who have left us, or sad memories, as well as the stress of trying to please each other can leave us tired and sad. ***Please join us on Saturday, December 20, 2025 at 3:30 PM for a special time of quiet reflection.***

This service will offer a short communal experience of shared scripture and worship, followed by the chance to spend time in quiet contemplation. You may choose to light a candle, offer a prayer and take a deep breath.

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



Find us on:
facebook®



Events Coordinator - Peggy Pennington

Eucharistic Ministers - Kathryn Jasper, Amy Leonard, and Kit Brooks

Head Usher - Skip Hash

Supporting ushers- John Drumm and
Veronica Garcia

Music Director - Carrie Sharp

Newsletter - Amy Leonard, Donna O'Leary

Altar Guild Director - Joanne Hash

Members- Peggy Pennington,
Katy Fulton, Veronica Harlan

Treasurer - Jann Goodpaster

Bell Ringer - John Drumm

Church Groundskeeper - Carrie Sharp

Facilities - Alec Pennington



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Hoodsport, WA 98548

saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com 360-877-9879

The Rev. Bill Fulton, Vicar, billfulton2001@yahoo.com
Church Office saintgermainhoodsport@gmail.com

The Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden - Carrie Sharp

Junior Warden - Peggy Pennington

People's Warden/ Clerk - Amy Leonard

Treasurer - Jann Goodpaster

Joanne Hash - Kit Brooks - John Drumm