



ST. AIDAN'S

# STAG & STAFF

*St. Aidan's mission: To grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.*

JUNE 2021 VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 6

Men's **BYOB** -- not what you think!

**Bring your own BREAKFAST!**

**JUNE 5 -- St. Aidan's Patio -- 8:30 am**

Meet Greet Eat!

Dear Friends,

We have entered "the long, green season" in the church! These are the Sundays known as the "Sundays after Pentecost," and they extend from May 30 to November 21. This is a long stretch of time without a specific theme. What sounds funny to most of us is the alternative name for this period, "Ordinary Time." The phrase doesn't lend itself to a very compelling marketing campaign, but it does make sense.

We may notice that the weeks during the Summer have a slower pace and the weeks of the Fall reflect a quicker pace. This seems rather ordinary. Even the scripture passages chosen for this time reflect the usual rhythms of life and ordinary concerns of our daily existence. Yes, some of the passages include archaic references, but we might imagine that this is a time when the seeds of our faith that were planted at Easter are taking root as we settle into a growing season. The lessons of Jesus continue to resonate and raise important questions with modern people because they point to the way we contend with the concerns of a changing world.

Let us open ourselves to the beauty in creation and our own potential for learning and growth, as we see the green vestments and altar hangings in the church. Ordinary time might sound strange, but this is the time in which we live. This is the season when we are continually invited to learn from scripture, celebrate our tradition, and grow spiritually by seeking answers to our questions. I pray that our ordinary times are made extraordinary as we continue to grow and mature in our faith.

You remain in my prayers,  
Esther +



Father's Day Prayer

God our Father,  
we give thanks  
to You for the  
fathers and men  
in our lives.  
We ask for  
your blessings  
to be given  
to them that  
they may be  
a father of love,  
just as You.  
Amen.

## We are proud of you Zach!

Zach was featured in the Hartford Union High School *Ovations* magazine sent to everyone in the school district.

**Congratulations to you and your family!**



**ZACHARIE DAVIS**

**Future Plans:** I would like to create video games.

**Hartford Area School District:** Central Middle School

**Favorite Class:** Acting and Theater because I like acting out different characters.

**Favorite thing about HUHS:** I like my teachers!

**Activities:** Best Buddies

"Zach works hard every day and he always has such a positive attitude. He often takes initiative when it comes to projects that need to be completed and is always our 'go to' guy!" - Nancy Lockwood

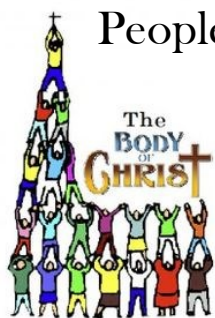
## *In This Issue*

**People in the Parish Profile -- p. 2**

**Senior Warden's Message -- p. 4**

**Alice's Restaurant -- p. 7**

**Vacation Bible School -- Registration -- p. 8**



## People in the Parish --

### The Mercado Family

Amanda Mercado is bringing her passion and perspective to a new role on the St. Aidan's Vestry. She finds it exciting, and it adds to an already busy life that includes two teenagers and one almost teen, husband Fito Mercado Esparza, and her full-time nursing job.

"I think one of my main goals on the vestry is youth," Amanda said. "I feel like we have done a great job with Sunday School. But I feel some of the in-between kids, before they get to confirmation age, we could be doing more with them.

"They could be more involved with community things and mentoring our younger kids. And there are other kids out there that might need a place to go, a faith home."

The COVID-19 pandemic has created major challenges during the past year, and church gatherings were restricted to online events. But that has changed in the past month with a return to socially distanced Sunday services in the church building. More in-person events should be available over the summer if the pandemic continues to recede.

"The older kids that were in confirmation class over a year ago are going to get confirmed, probably this fall," Amanda said. "And we're going to have them help with the younger kids and vacation bible school, helping them put their projects together. These kids all have been in school all year, and they're used to masking and distancing. And they're good at it."

Amanda, a nurse for the last 20 years, works with pediatrician Teresa Uy at the Aurora Health Care facility in Slinger. "I've worked with her for 10 years and we're pretty much best friends," Amanda said. "I've got it good." Fito is a shift supervisor at Quad Graphics and works varied hours. He was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. when he was 17 years old. Fito's father and two sisters still live in Mexico and he is planning a trip – delayed by a year – to visit them later this month. "We always try to take clothes for some of the neighborhood kids, some things like that," Amanda said. "COVID hit them hard. They didn't have unemployment programs. They were just out of luck." The couple met when both worked at Slinger Manufacturing, where Amanda found a summer job while going to college.

Amanda and Fito soon will have a three-teen household. Maya is the oldest, age 17 and a junior at Hartford High School. Gabriel is 16 and a sophomore, and Lily is 12 and in the sixth grade. Gabe Alves, an exchange student from Brazil, lived with the family last year but returned home last summer.

Maya has plenty of musical talent – she plays the cello, piano, bass and ukulele. And she is planning to become a teacher. "She is starting to think about all the college stuff," Amanda said. "This next year is going to be a busy year. She is thinking about English or literature, somewhere in that field, with maybe Spanish as a minor. Originally, she wanted to do foreign language. She really would like to live or study abroad, too, and maybe teach English somewhere."

Amanda said Gabriel is the opposite of Maya in his career interests. "He's the mechanical, math-minded kid," Amanda said. "He's not a four-year college kind of kid, even though he's got amazing grades. He just doesn't see himself doing that." He underwent a serious back surgery about a year and a half ago "It was a long healing time," Amanda said. "That was a scare for us and an ordeal. But he's completely recovered, and he works with a trainer once a week. He's doing really well."

Amanda said they call Lily "the grand finale" as the youngest of the three. "She's got the biggest personality in the house," Amanda said. "She's been playing the violin for five years. She actually plays beautifully. She's just too shy to do it for anybody. "Starting in third or fourth grade she played with the middle school select orchestra, but then COVID happened. She says she wants to work on Broadway someday."

Amanda was happy all three were able to go back to school in person this academic year, after being online only last spring. "I've learned my kids need to be face-to-face," Amanda said. "Some people like it [online learning] better. Not mine."



**Charles Gardner**  
Senior Staff Writer



## THE 8TH SACRAMENT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### Coffee Hour Returns!

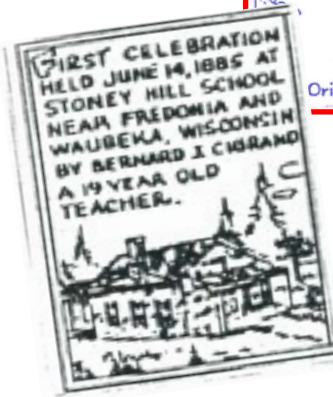


## St. Aidan's VBS is on!

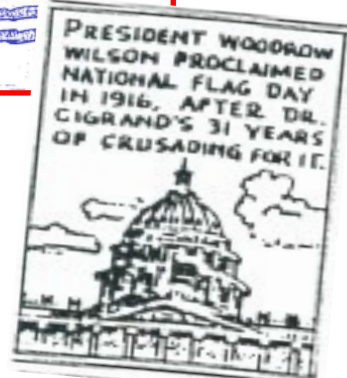
**Sunday, July 25 through Thursday, July 29**

The children of St. Aidan's are our **TREASURE** -- TREASURED will be the theme of our week. Although there will be a number of differences in our VBS this year, the basics will be the same: stories, music in some format, crafts, and snacks. We'll attempt to have much of the class held outside if possible.

If you have questions please call the Church office [262-673-7273] or contact Linda Weber. [262-442-3364] The Registration form is on page 8. Please return it to the Church office.



Originated in Wisconsin



## OPEN ART STUDIO

Second Thursdays  
**10 am to Noon**

**June 10**

**St. Aidan's  
Fellowship Hall**

## Come and Play!

Creativity is more than realistic drawing and painting! It's music, poetry, and "What can I do with these crazy ideas!"

Lynn Molenda and Alice Pollock are offering this "space" and time for anyone interested in artistic adventures -- whatever medium you want to explore. Some materials will be available to get the creative juices flowing -- or bring your own!

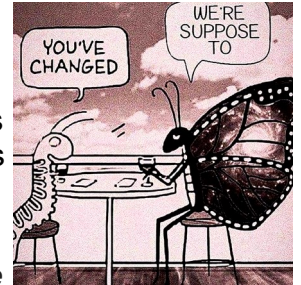




The Very Reverend Matthew T. Woodward, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento, and member of the TENS Board of Directors, used the phrase “coming alongside,” the value of having someone close, to capture the feelings of loss of closeness we have experienced during the past 14 months. What a gentle expression to help us visualize a situation and determine new actions. (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, 5/2021).

St. Aidan's has, along with so many other churches in the past year, created ministries to help us connect or “come alongside” -- phone-trees, email, Zoom coffee hours, online Evening Prayer, live-streamed worship. Although these may not have filled the void of a hug or the comfort of sitting alongside someone, it has helped me appreciate the gift that they are. I am so grateful for the support of those who are making in-person worship at St. Aidan's possible and providing that “come alongside” sense of comfort and belonging that is so important to our faith community. Let's continue our ministries, as ways for us to “come alongside” others. I hope we will integrate new technology, as well as good, old-fashioned hugs in the future.

While local conditions still provide the clearest and most responsible guidance about how we regather, the diocese continues to discern the safety and well-being of everyone – vaccinated, unvaccinated, children, parents, and grandparents – and after reviewing all recommendations, the diocese continues to require masks and 25% capacity seating at the present time, while relaxing some guidelines on process or procedures (updated 5/14/2021).



*There are several considerations that led the diocese to the decision to continue to require masks during worship and most activities. These considerations are:*

- *Vaccines are not available to children under 12. This leaves our parents and grandparents with the difficult decision on whether to accept a higher risk for their children or exclude children from our gatherings.*
- *Not all adults are able to, have access to, or elect to receive the vaccine. This would require those persons to decide whether to accept a higher risk, exclude themselves from our gatherings, or be visibly different from those around them.*
- *The CDC is using the relaxed restrictions to entice people to vaccinate while we are trying to protect our flock.*
- *Information on the variants of the virus and the effectiveness of the vaccines for the variants is still evolving.*
- *The infection rates for most of our counties are at a level that is of higher risk than we would like to see.*
- *Vaccination rates within our counties range from 32% to 53% which leaves the majority of people in our counties unvaccinated.* (Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Revised Returning to Worship Guidelines, May 14, 2021.)

As we continue to develop regathering plans for St. Aidan's (links on St. Aidan's Facebook and web page), let's use this as an opportunity to “come alongside,” to bridge hospitality, worship, and stewardship.



We now are enjoying a patio coffee hour with “Bring your own Coffee,” the Vestry is planning a June 13<sup>th</sup> patio worship service to provide an opportunity for more to attend worship, and plans for VBS are underway. Let's welcome all that we are, all that we have, and all that we bring to our faith community, masked and distanced. Whether it is wel-

coming newcomers who found us online for worship, or welcoming back old friends, we have an opportunity to re-

frame our ministries and invest in hope.

And during this time many things have changed! People and places, friends and family; Grandchildren.

*June is the gateway to summer.* (Jean Hersey)  
Enjoy, stay safe and well,

**Donna Dinco**



# ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



	6	13	20	27
Reader	M. Hoffmann	B. Pollock	B. Mendoza	J. Paquette
Prayers	L. Molenda	P. Paddon	C. Gardner	E. Schmidt
Acolyte	G. Mercado	A. Schunk	L. Daley	S. Schmidt
Usher	J. Paquette	R. Schnorenberg	L. Molenda	Pollocks



## 2021

	4	11	18	25
Reader	B. Schunk	C. Gardner	Pollock	L. Molenda
Prayers	L. Schunk	M. Hoffmann	Pollock	P. Paddon
Acolyte	G. Mercado	L. Daley	J.P. Schunk	S. Schmidt
Usher	Schunks	Schmidt	Webers	J. Paquette

If you cannot serve your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you.  
Any **permanent** changes to the schedule should be reported to  
**Gail Hefti** at [gail.hefti@gmail.com](mailto:gail.hefti@gmail.com) or 920-740-3997.

### Church Cleaning

As a church community, we are returning to a schedule of volunteers for cleaning the church building. If you were not on the church cleaning schedule previously, and would like to be added, please contact Linda Weber or call the church office and leave a message.



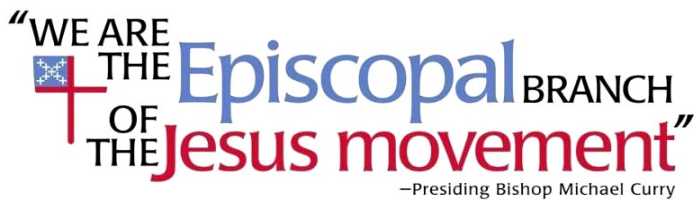
A hearty **thank you** to all **teachers** in all schools and churches. This year was unprecedented, chaotic, and difficult -- yet teachers rose to the technical and curricular occasions!

**Congratulations** to all **students** -- especially those graduating -- learning flexibility and responsibility as well as their subjects!

**TEACHERS & STUDENTS**

WE THINK  
YOU'RE KIND OF A

**BIG DEAL!**



**Pat and Fred Paddon's** granddaughter, Olivia, is graduating from high school May 29 in Naples FL. She will be attending the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg to study marine biology. Our congratulations to Olivia and her whole family!

How to reach us —

Church Mailing Address:

670 E. Monroe Avenue  
Hartford, WI 53027

Church Office E-mail:

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Church Website: [www.staidans-hartford.org](http://www.staidans-hartford.org)

**Church Phone: 262-673-7273**

The Rev. Esther Kramer

262-309-7661

estherkramer0806@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Scott Eakins, Organist

Mike Weber, Treasurer

### **Vestry Wardens**

Donna Dinco

Brian Schrunk

### **Vestry**

Micki Hoffmann

Sandy Koeller

Amanda Mercado

Eileen Schmidt

### **Vestry Clerk**

Linda Weber

### **Stag and Staff**

Newsletter of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Published monthly

Deadline: Third Sunday of the month

Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: [mphoffmann70@gmail.com](mailto:mphoffmann70@gmail.com)

or 262-673-2903



### **Prayer Chain**

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call **Alice Pollock** [[262-707-3456] or the church office.

An Episcopal saint with Wisconsin roots! --

### **Enmegahbowh.**



He was ordained by the first missionary bishop of the Episcopal Church, Jackson Kemper, founder of Nashotah House and first bishop of the Diocese of Wisconsin.

**Enmegahbowh**, pronounced En-meh-GAH-boe, (c. 1820 – June 12, 1902); from **Enami'egaabaw**, meaning "He that prays for his people while standing," was the first Native American to be ordained a priest in the U.S.

Born to the chief of an Ojibwe Band on Rice Lake near Peterborough, Canada, he was raised in a Christian Anishinaabe village which was affiliated with the Methodists. An Episcopal clergyman, Mr. Armour, persuaded Enmegahbowh's reluctant parents to send him to be educated with the clergyman's own sons. Enmegahbowh did learn to read and speak English, but after three months, the homesick boy ran away and walked for two days to return to his own people.

On July 4, 1841 Enmegahbowh married Biwabikogeshiquay (a/k/a Iron Sky Woman, baptized Charlotte), niece of Hole-in-the-Day. He met the Rev. Ezekiel Gilbert Gear, chaplain at Fort Snelling at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, and became an Episcopalian. Gear introduced Enmegahbowh to the Rev. James Lloyd Breck, a missionary who had arrived in Minnesota in 1851, and who baptized Enmegahbowh.

Bishop Jackson Kemper ordained him deacon in 1859, and Enmegahbowh went to Crow Wing, Minnesota to assist in founding St. Columba Mission. Mille Lacs Chief Fine-Day was an early member of Enmegahbowh's church and took over the mission in 1861.

His life is celebrated in the Episcopal Church on June 12.



# Poetry

Corner

*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?  
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:  
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,  
And summer's lease hath all too short a date;  
Sometime too hot the eye of heaven shines,  
And often is his gold complexion dimm'd;  
And every fair from fair sometime declines,  
By chance or nature's changing course untrimm'd;  
But thy eternal summer shall not fade,  
Nor lose possession of that fair thou ow'st;  
Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade,  
When in eternal lines to time thou grow'st:  
So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,  
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.*

*Sonnet 18  
William Shakespeare*



## Birthdays & JUNE Anniversaries

1 Andrew Hellmann	14 Sydney Wetzel
Aimee & Brian	16 Carol Wetzel
Hennings	19 Dawn & Mike Lake
Susan & Steve	20 Barb Lindert
Trewyn	21 Michael Moran
3 Pat Gardner	Janet & Steve
4 Crystal Garbarek	Garbarek
6 Samantha Schmidt	26 J. P. Schunk
8 Ann Marsh-Meigs	27 Micki & Pete
Amanda & Fido	Hoffmann
Mercado	29 Russell Lenz
9 Spencer Paquette	30 Sarah & Don Martin



*Alice's  
Restaurant*

You just never know. Sunday this looked like a quiet week -- a bit of gardening, general tidying, and some time spent reading as my sister gave me a great mystery. Then last night everything flew up in the air and came down in a different place. Bruce is downstairs making plans to visit his brother in Atlanta, Linda and I are taking a little trip down to see Sandy in Milwaukee, and I have a few new projects. This is all to the good. Keeping busy.

The garden is doing ok, most of the transplants are in although I have had to do some watering to keep them and the mushroom bed going. So far, we had had enough oyster shell mushrooms for two meals! I am experimenting with the mushrooms. A friend got me started a year or so ago. It has been fun and the big pile of wood chips left last fall after some tree removals inspired me to try an actual mushroom bed so I'll let you know how it goes. If you didn't know you can just set out those extra mushrooms on a paper towel and let them dry. Ta-da! dried mushrooms just like the fancy ones in the store. Summer seems to either be a time of lots of fresh meals or crockpot meals for busy days. I try to keep a few of those freezer meals tucked away, too. It looks (fingers crossed) like things may be more normal this summer. So, in the interest of giving you a backup meal for the upcoming busy days, here is one to put in the freezer.

### Sesame Orange Chicken

2 lbs. chicken pieces  
1/3 C. soy sauce  
1/3 C. honey or maple syrup  
2 T. orange juice concentrate  
2 T. tomato paste  
2 cloves garlic minced  
1/4 t. pepper  
Sesame seeds to garnish

Mix all together and divide into freezer bags as you like. The whole recipe is good for 4 people. When the time comes throw it in the crock pot for 4 hours on high or 6-8 on low. Make some rice and you can reduce the cooking liquid in a saucepan to pour over. Top with the sesame seeds.

**Alice Pollock**

# Join St. Aidan's VBS!



## St. Aidan's Episcopal Church      2021 Vacation Bible School      Registration Form

Classes: Pre-school (3years by 9/1/2021) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Dates: **Sunday, July 25- Thursday, July 29 (IN PERSON)**

Time: 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 670 E. Monroe St, Hartford, WI 53027  
262-673-7273

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please PRINT the names of children attending VBS, their birthday and the grade last completed

NAME	BIRTHDATE	GRADE COMPLETED
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

**Please list any special needs or allergies your child (children) may have**

I hereby agree to hold St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and any or all representatives from any harm or liability that could arise out of my child's participation in the 2021 VBS program. I further authorize that emergency medical treatment may be administered to my child by licensed emergency medical technicians or by licensed health care providers in the event that my child is injured and I cannot be reached. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CHILDREN WITH COVID SYMPTOMS.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Return form to St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

**Questions regarding registration please contact: Linda Weber [[262-442-3364]  
or the Church office 262-673-7273.**

**ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**STAG & STAFF**





# SUMMER SPANISH CAMPS FOR KIDS 2021

Children are invited to attend one of our week-long fun, interactive Spanish camps with a certified and qualified teacher. Basic Spanish reading, writing, conversation skills and fun facts about Latin America will be taught.

This is a great opportunity to give children a head start in learning a second language!

**Cost: \$20 per child**

\*15% discount for each additional child in the family

Healthy snacks will be provided during each class.

The camp ends with a piñata and fiesta!

**Space is limited!**  
**Register now!**

**All camps will take place in West Bend.**

**Monday-Friday, July 12-16**

*\*Beginner Level Class\**

5:15-6:15pm: Ages 4-11

St. Mary's Church Hall - 406 Jefferson St.

**Monday-Friday, July 19-23**

*\*Beginner Level Class\**

9:30-10:30am: Ages 8-11

West Bend Boys & Girls Club

11:00-12:00pm: Ages 4-7

St. Mary's Church Hall - 406 Jefferson St.

**Monday-Friday, August 2-6**

*\*More Experienced Level Class\**

9:30-10:30am: Ages 7-11

St. Mary's Church Hall - 406 Jefferson St.

**Monday-Friday, August 9-13**

*\*Beginner Level Class\**

9:30-10:30am: Ages 4-11

St. Mary's Church Hall - 406 Jefferson St.

For more information and to register, please contact:

Casa's Executive Director, Noelle Braun at 262-306-2900 / [noelle@casaguadalupeonline.org](mailto:noelle@casaguadalupeonline.org)  
or Casa's Literacy Coordinator, Maria Gutierrez Gurrola at [maria@casaguadalupeonline.org](mailto:maria@casaguadalupeonline.org)



## Mercy

It is at the heart of God, the deepest quality of God's compassion

**Y**ou gotta be kidding. Jack is dating Mindy? Oh, mercy me. She's young enough to be his daughter!" Call that a casual use of the word that is our all-purpose exclamation for astonishment: mercy. It's not a harmful deployment of a serious word, just a frivolous one.

If you've heard evangelical activist Tony Campolo preach, you know his sermons are anything but casual, his references to Scripture anything but frivolous. In a sermon preached shortly after the U.S. elected to invade Iraq, Campolo offered a passionate policy idea. As a suggestion for deposing Saddam Hussein, he proposed we airdrop thousands of tons of food and medicine on population centers across Iraq. It was an emphatic "bomb them with butter" strategy. Asked for justification behind this unusual "shock and awe" diplomacy, Campolo had a straightforward reply: "Mercy. Read Micah 6:8."

Opening our Bible to the prophet Micah, we immediately discover that we are to "love mercy" (New International Version). Not show mercy, but actually love mercy. In other words, savor it. Relish it. *Hesed* is the Hebrew word for mercy, perhaps translated as *kindness* in different places of your Bible.

But are we really ready to love mercy in our less than merciful culture? Revenge has an impressive reach in our society, just as it exercises a powerful grip on many a mind. Try having a conversation on mercy, for example, with a strident death penalty advocate. You may not get very far.

If we could realize how much we depend on mercy in a personal way, we might adjust some of our retributive instincts. Notice how often we demand a God of justice for others, but how much we need a God of mercy for ourselves. On the chance that I should die tonight, I'm pretty certain that I would hope to receive more mercy from God than justice. And you?

Mercy is the blessing we get when we don't deserve it, particularly when we find our lives miserable or desperate with need. "[O Lord] in your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me" (Psalm 71:2). The psalmist's plea offers a clue to the way mercy comes to life in Scripture.

Of the nearly 150 biblical references to mercy, the vast majority of them understand mercy as a divine attribute.

That is, mercy is much more than a human virtue we want for ourselves. "We live full time in the mercy of God," says professor of homiletics and liturgics David Buttrick. "The air we breathe, the grace we trust, the life we live—[it's] all mercy." We owe our lives to God's mercy.

Mercy is at the heart of God, the deepest quality of God's compassion. "The Lord, the Lord, [is] a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness ..." (Exodus 34:6). "God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love ... made us alive together with Christ ..." (Ephesians 2:4-5). The priority of mercy in a list of God features—its first-place mention—catches our eye. Mercy is simply the way God is. And Jesus Christ, who becomes the face of God for the Christian community, is what preacher Will Willimon calls "mercy in motion."

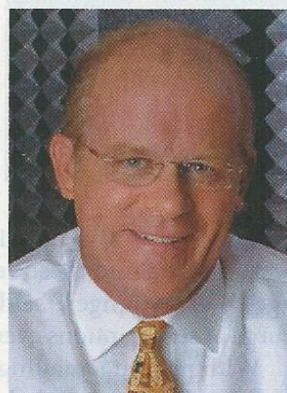
There is the story of a certified public accountant who decided to open a journal with God. He created a debit and credit book where he would list everything that God gave him and that he gave to God. If someone did him a favor, he noted that as God's gift to him. Similarly, he credited God

with his health, his friends, his food, his rescue from depression, and a thousand other undeserved blessings.

He also put down what he did for God. In the end, though, he gave up the bookkeeping project, saying, "It's impossible to balance the books. I find that God is completely my creditor and what I have done for God is next to nothing."

We attempt our own balancing of the books with God, only to fall back repeatedly on our need for mercy. So we keep on praying: "O God, who is always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy."

Yes, Lord. Pour it on. Please! ☐



**The priority of mercy  
in a list of God features—its  
first-place mention—catches  
our eye.**

### Author bio:

Marty is a speaker, author and ELCA pastor who writes monthly for *The Lutheran*.