



APRIL 2025 VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 4

ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

The growing community of St. Aidan's is called to be God's light and loving presence through faith, sacrament, and outreach.



April 2 6:30 pm Wednesday
Ecumenical Service
@ Redeemer Lutheran Church
Refreshments to follow service

April 6 9:30 am
Sunday Eucharist, Lent 5

April 9 6:30 pm Wednesday
Ecumenical Service
@ First United Methodist Church
Dinner 5—6:15 pm

April 13 9:30 am Palm Sunday
Eucharist with the Passion reading

April 17 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday
Eucharist with Foot Washing
Fellowship Meal, following service

April 18 5:00 pm Good Friday
Service with Passion reading

April 20 6:00 am Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service
Pat and Charles Gardner's home
6162 S. Bay Rd., Hartford



9:30 am Easter

Sunday
Celebratory Eucharist!



March 29

4:30 pm

Fellowship Hall
Bring fun and friends!
Information: Mary Moran
262-224-0543



First Saturdays —

APRIL 5

Cooking 8am
Eating 8:30am



Alice's Restaurant

I'm looking out the window at snow. Tomorrow is St Patrick's Day. Typical Wisconsin spring! We are in the midst of Lent, and we have a number of events that help us do some introspection, share with those around us, encourage our community and its growth. One of those was the night before Ash Wednesday, our traditional pancake supper. Traditionally, Lent is penitential accompanied by self-denial, especially excluding fats, leavening, and sugars for 40 days. On Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins, those were often consumed so they wouldn't be wasted. In my house it would be to reduce temptation to consume them in the coming weeks. Chocolate? Does custom say anything about chocolate? Oh. Sugar. Never mind.

In the church kitchen on Shrove Tuesday evening, there was controlled chaos as the young people and a few not-quite-so young people of the congregation made supper for us. There were pancakes -- plain, blueberry, chocolate chip -- sausages, applesauce, maple syrup, a groaning board of fresh fruit, and to top everything whipped cream. There was even the traditional Whipped Cream Toss which left a few participants in need of washcloths. I think all the bases were covered -- leavening, fats, sugars, and maybe a few extras. It was great fun and a great time to share with church family and guests. These are the things that bring us together -- whether joyful, ordinary, or sad -- that give us time to share, that help us listen, to plan to do for one another. I wish you a peaceful productive Lent, however you observe it.

This Restaurant column was prompted by leftover blueberries from Shrove Tuesday supper. Not wanting them to go to waste, I made coffeecake. This breaks all the Lenten disciplines so please say, "Get thee behind me Satan!" And tuck the recipe away until after Easter.

Blueberry Coffee Cake 9x9 greased pan 375*

Cake

2 C. flour
1 1/2 t. baking powder
1/2 t. salt
Mix all the dry ingredients together
3/4 C. sugar
1/4 C. butter or margarine at room temp
Cream these two together and add
1 egg
1 t. vanilla
1/2 C. milk
Add the dry mixture. Mix until just combined

1 1/2 C. blueberries (or other fruit)
Fold in fruit
Pour into a greased pan

Topping

1/2 C. brown sugar
1/3 C. flour
1/2 t. cinnamon
1/4 C. cold butter
Cut together with pastry blender
Top batter with mixture.

Bake 35 – 40 minutes

Alice Pollock

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "Life is a journey, not a destination." This is a sentiment that I have used countless times to describe the way I feel about my own life. As many of you know, I was raised in the United Methodist Church, and my husband, Tom, was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. We joined the Episcopal Church when we married in 1986 and throughout our 38 years of marriage, I have come to appreciate Roman Catholic tradition. In 2019, as a student at Virginia Theological Seminary, I once again found myself stretching in my faith as I learned to appreciate and officiate Evangelical Lutheran Church worship.

During this season of Lent, I feel especially blessed to worship with you and among people from other faith traditions. During the Sundays of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter at St. Aidan's we walk together using the words in our *Book of Common Prayer*. On Wednesday evenings in Lent, we share liturgy and walk with our friends from the First United Methodist Church, St. Kilian Catholic Congregation, and Redeemer Lutheran Church. These services bring us together and help us open our hearts to the traditions of the Christian church. They also prepare us to see ourselves among the broader community of Christians who observe Holy Week and celebrate the risen Christ on Easter morning.

I hope you will join us for the last two Ecumenical Wednesday Lenten Services, on April 2 at Redeemer Lutheran Church and on April 9 at First United Methodist Church. And I hope you will participate in the Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at St. Aidan's. As we welcome Easter morning among the traditions of the church, may the risen Christ continue to guide us. May the risen Christ continue to inspire us to share our traditions. And may God make us one body, one spirit in the risen Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in His name.

Mother Esther +



STAG & STAFF



Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Kathy Fairchild
- 4 Ted Del Solar
- 8 Amanda Mercado
Brian Schrunk
- 9 Mike Morgan
- 13 Jan Lindborg
- 15 Margaret Crandall
- 18 Eric Meigs
- 19 Michal & Dennis Daley
- 20 Alice Pollock
- 22 Sandy & Dave Tracy
- 23 Emily Hellmann
- 25 Grace Kaker



How can I help the Bees?

You may not be willing or able to plant flowers and vegetables to provide blooms, but there is still a way you can help the pollinators! When warm weather arrives, bees need access to safe drinking water. Here are several easy ways you can provide that:

Trickling Fountain: The water current should be slow and gentle; bees like trickling water as it reduces the drowning risk. A gently trickling function draining into a rock filled container with a grate is great!

Bird bath with Rocks: Fill your bird bath with stones. Stones add landing areas for the bees. This bird bath should be second to the one you use for birds; bees can deter birds from using the same bath.

Buckets: Add a sponge in a bucket as a landing pad or float corks in the water. Any non-toxic flotation device will work.

The planet thanks you!

Laura Johnston
Jr. Warden



From Eric's Desk —

This is the time of year I can get lost in thought.

Lost in memories.

I was thinking about Lenten services for me growing up. We had a Pastor who wanted to bring the Gospel ALIVE for us. For several years he would dress up as a Disciple -- robe, sandals, full beard. Then he would get down from the pulpit and give his firsthand account of the events of his time. People hated it, then they loved it -- and him.

Lost in planning.

I just spent a week's vacation planning my summer garden. For me the planning is always my favorite! But how to plan -- 60's this week, snowstorm the next. Excitement about the garden, fear of the WEEDS. But I'm also planning for Easter. Where, when, with whom. Absolute excitement about celebrating Easter. The sadness about those who will not be there. Maybe, for the first time in a long time, not there.

Working through the fear of the unknown, by having a plan.

Wisconsin is perfect for Lent. The inconsistency of Wisconsin weather at this time of year keeps me thinking and gets me lost.

Is that the point? Sit in the confusion and try to figure it out. Which plant goes where? Do I have too many tomato plants? Can you have too many tomato plants? Who will be there when my dad starts to cry since his brother is gone this year.

The Tradition is here to force us all to work through what we must -- our walk through the Season.

What we figure out from this journey becomes the Hallelujah!, the Rebirth, the Change, which moves us forward for the next year.

Tradition gives us the framework to manifest the required change, to evolve.

Let's evolve together.

Eric Wetzel

From one of the eulogies for Jimmy Carter –

*"He made real the principles of his faith
and the ideals of the nation."*



Rummage Sale 2025

Friday April 25, 8 am to 2 pm
Saturday April 26, 8 am to 2 pm

The time to declutter is here! There are tons of names for decluttering our homes. I enjoy 'Swedish Death Cleaning,' as I know my children want very few of the precious things I've gathered over the years. Expand your idea of saving things for the family — when you donate them to St. Aidan's rummage sale, you are sharing them with the family of mankind! And someone will pay to take home the knick-knack your children don't want!



We are again fortunate enough to have the Boy Scout troop from West Bend pick up all the leftovers from our sale. That said, we still need to be aware of items that shouldn't be donated, either because of their size and weight or the fact that they contain hazardous materials that we then need to dispose of.

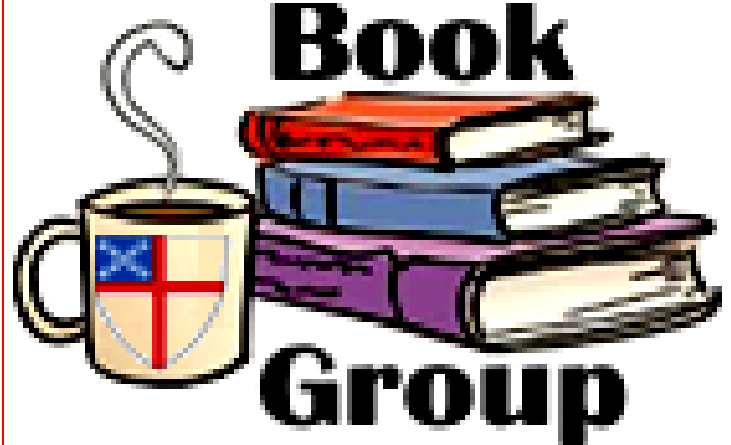
The following is a list of what St. Vinnie's **DOES NOT** take. Please use this as a guide when donating. **NOT ACCEPTED:** chemicals, propane tanks, appliances with Freon (air conditioners, refrigerators, dehumidifiers (we need to pay a fee to dispose of these) large appliances, hot water heaters, dishwashers, organs, pianos, ping pong tables, pool tables, metal desks, waterbeds, mattresses and box springs, large building supplies, console stereos, non working TVs of any kind (we need to pay a fee to dispose of these) tires, batteries, encyclopedias, bowling balls, car seats 5 years or older (there's a date on every car seat).

Questions, see **Linda Weber**.

See volunteer and drop-off schedule on page 5.

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Please join St. Aidan's



Wednesday, April 30
12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Discussing —

Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others
Barbara Brown Taylor



EpiscoWisco Camp *Summertime,*
Summertime,
Some Fun Summertime!

Spend some time in community to have fun, enjoy the north woods, learn about God and each other. EpiscoWisco Camp is back this Summer, at new location, for sessions starting June 15.

Registration is now open for campers:

Senior Camp (Senior High)
15 — 21 June

Middler Camp (Middle School)
22 — 27 June

Junior Camp (Primary School)
29 June — 2 July

Kinder Camp (ages 4-7, w/ adult)
29 June — 1 July

If you are 18 & over and interested in working as staff (counselors, session directors, chaplains, etc.), or if you are in high school under age 18 and would like to serve as a Counselor in Training (CIT), applications are now open as well. You can find all this and LOTS more info: <https://www.episcowisco.camp> (or ask **Deacon Terry**).

STAG & STAFF



ST. AIDAN'S ECW RUMMAGE SALE 2025 IS HERE!!!!

Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26
8-2 both days.

There is a lot to do before Friday and a job for everyone. Sign up in church on Sunday, call or text Linda Weber [262-442-3364].

Sunday 4/20 Easter Sunday

Go home and enjoy family.

MANY HANDS --

Monday 4/21

9:00 am Take down the round tables and chairs and put up rectangular tables.

10:00 am -6:00pm Cleaning, sorting and pricing. Come and work all day or come and work for an hour.

Tuesday 4/22

2 pm to 8pm Rummage work anytime. ECW provides a working dinner around 5.

Wednesday 4/23

9 am to 5 pm Rummage work anytime.

Thurs 4/24

9 am to 5 pm or finish Rummage work anytime.

Friday and Saturday SALE DAYS.

We need help these days!! Sign-up or call Linda Weber

RUMMAGE DROP-OFF

Anytime during the week when we are working

Need to drop something at a different time? Call Linda 262-442-3364

Questions about what items we can sell?

Call Linda Weber.

New to St. Aidan's? Working as part of a team is a great way to get to know other parishioners. Everyone's help is needed to make this sale a success.





Deaconspeak

musings from the left shoulder

Way of Life = Way of Love

As we progress through the midst of Lententide we may be focused on how we might be following our Lenten discipline – or maybe not so much? It is a healthy spiritual exercise to review our past, assess our now, and implement for the future. This gives us a perspective of who and how we have become us, so that we might make adjustments and tweaks to try to be better followers of Jesus Christ.

At this time, it may be beneficial to consider how we might participate in the literal and figurative walk with Jesus through Holy Week.

On Passion Sunday (aka Palm Sunday) we parade alongside Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as we wave our palms and sing in praise. But then, very soon after, we turn towards the "Via Dolorosa" (from Latin, the Sorrowful or Suffering Way) as we join in the reading of the Passion from Luke's Gospel.

We pick up the trail again on Maundy Thursday, joining with our Christ in that dinner, which is much, much more than bread & wine. Jesus invites us to imitate him, and commands us to love one another – and then after going off to pray in the garden, he is arrested.

Good Friday continues the narrative with again reading the Passion (this time from John's Gospel), joining with the crowd, shouting "Crucify him! Crucify him." Which, of course, the Roman soldiers complete with derision.

Although all may be quiet on Holy Saturday, we re-gather on Easter Sunday with anticipation and joy, finally bursting forth with elation that Jesus Christ loves us far more than we can ask or imagine.

It is up to each of us to determine how much we accept Jesus' invitation to every part of this intimate, emotional journey. It is a way of love open to all. Because following the way of Christ is not some abstract, ethereal belief system, not a set of rules and behaviors.

Following Jesus Christ is a way of living, including the ups and downs of our lives - day in and day out. Holy Week is all of this -- and more. Jesus invites us to walk along with him, because his journey is ours and our journey is his.

This is the way to live. This is the way of love. This is the way of Life.

Love in Christ - **terry**

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Choir!



Youth at St. Aidan's —



Exploring!



Creating!



Learning!

STAG & STAFF



2025 Lenten Meditations

This Lent, “let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Join writer Jerusalem Jackson Greer this Lent as she encourages us to partake in “A Commonplace Lent.”

Reverence declares, “All of the things God established please me. I do not hurt any of them.”

Hildegard of Bingen, *Book of Life’s Merits*

Last spring, we hosted a tree-planting day at our diocesan camp, and a sweet family with four little girls, all under the age of six, joined us for this endeavor. While not particularly interested in tree planting, one of the girls was quite invested in finding and rescuing worms. Each time she found a worm, she placed it with great reverence on a dandelion, one of thousands that month that colored the fields.

Here at camp, we like the dandelions because the bees like the dandelions. And we like the bees because we like the squash, tomatoes and apples that they pollinate—and of course, we love the honey they make for us as well. But deciding to have a campus that is polka-dotted with dandelions did not happen by accident. It is a choice that we continue to make as a sign of reverence, a sign of delight in what God has established.

Often, we think of God’s creation in terms of individual items or categories. We thank God for the tree, the rain and the apple seed. We work to save a river, a species or a person. We fight for a single cause. And yet, the total ecosystem that God has established requires our reverence: bees, dandelions, crooked-neck squash, honey and families are just a few members of the larger ecosystem. To care for any of these members, we must repent for our frequent neglect of the whole and remember that wherever we are, because God loves it, we are standing on holy ground.

For Reflection

Consider the ecosystem of a community in your life. What practices related to one member potentially damage the whole? What changes could positively affect the whole ecosystem?



The Creation Care Commission prioritized two projects at their recent meeting: Landscape design for the church property and a community “block party” in the summer.

Landscape designers have reviewed the property and are submitting designs for incremental, sustainable changes to our environment that require minimal maintenance. Members are also looking into grants available to fund both projects.

Several members receive posts from Creation Justice Ministries, a national non-profit organization that promotes creation care especially among faith groups. Below is an explanation of their new logo which embodies their mission — and ours.



It is a visual theology that reflects both the mystery of divine communion and the ecological truth that life flourishes through connection. Through Christ, who holds all things together, we are called to the work of creation justice - protecting, restoring, and rightly sharing God's good gift of creation. This is not just environmental activism with religious language; it's a fundamental expression of Christian faith and practice. When we work for creation justice, we participate in God's ongoing work of reconciliation, where heaven and earth are joined once again, and all creation flourishes as God intended.

St. Hildegard Von Bingen [c. 1098 –1179]

St. Hildegard wrote visionary theology, botanical and medicinal works, supervised illuminations of her work and wrote choral music that is still produced to day.

From her writings —

“Humanity, take a good look at yourself, inside, you have heaven and earth, and all creation. You are a world, everything is hidden in you. There is music of heaven in all things and we have forgotten how to hear it until we sing.”

PARISH EVENTS APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Good Samaritans' favorite Church sign — <i>Is Jesus Your Steering Wheel or Your Spare Tire?</i></p> <p>St Aidan's Good Samaritans may be of some help with your emergency! Call Ron 414-416-9118</p>		1	2 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Redeemer 6:30 pm	3  Choir 6:30 pm	4	5  Men's B'fast 8:30 am
6 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	7	8	9 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am 1st UMC 6:30 pm	10  Choir 6:30 pm	11	12
13  PALM SUNDAY Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Stag & Staff articles due	14	15	16 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	17  Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Service Meal to follow	18  good friday 5 pm Service w/ Passion	19
20 EASTER Sunrise Service 6:30 am Church Service 9:30 am 	21	22	23 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	24	25 RUMMAGE SALE! 8 am to 2 pm	26 Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st UMC
27 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	28	29	30 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am			

Rummage sale work

ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

APRIL



2025

	6	13	20	27
Reader	B. Mendoza	T. Schlaefer	C. Gardner	A. Pollock
Prayers	M. Hoffmann	E. Schmidt	B. Pollock	L. Schrunk
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	S. Schmidt	L. Daley	J.P. Schrunk
Usher	Shrunks	J. Pierce	Pollocks	L. Molenda
LEM	M. Weber	A. Pollock	M. Hoffmann	J. Pierce
Counters	Schnorenberg/Moran	Hoffmann/Gardner	Pierce/Fairchild	Weber/A. M-Meigs
Cleaning	Gardner	Mercado/Johnston	Weber	Trewyn/Johnston
Altar	A. Pollock			



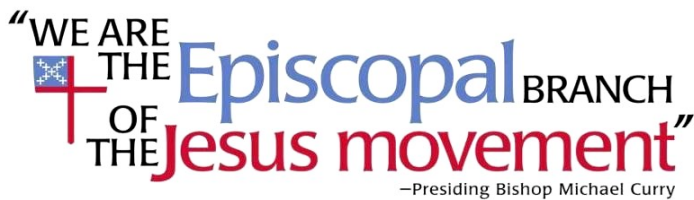
Happy May! 2025

	4	11	18	25
Reader	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda	D. Beml	M.B. Moran
Prayers	A. Pollock	C. Gardner	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	S. Schmidt	L. Daley	J.P. Schrunk
Usher	R. Schnorenberg	Schmidts	Webers	Schrunk
LEM	B. Schrunk	M. Weber	A. Pollock	M. Hoffmann
Counters	C. Gardner/Moran	Hoffmann/Pierce	Schnorenberg/A.M-Meigs	Weber/Fairchild
Altar	L. Schrunk			

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 or 920-740-3997.



How to reach us —

Church Mailing Address:

670 E. Monroe Avenue
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secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Church Website: www.staidans-hartford.org

Church Phone: 262-673-7273

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262-309-7661

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La Pastora Loretta Mendoza

Pastoral Assistant

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lorettawell@gmail.com

Deacon Terry Garner

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Tara Nooyen

Administrative Assistant

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Mary Beth Moran, Treasurer

Vestry Wardens

Eric Wetzel, Senior Warden

Laura Johnston, Junior Warden

Vestry

Geri Kelly

Lynn Molenda

Mike Morgan

Mike Weber

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan's Newsletter

Published monthly

Deadline: Third Sunday of the month

Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com
or 262-673-2903

Prayer Requests



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

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Mondays --

AA

7 - 8 pm

Parish Hall

Tuesdays --

Women's AA

Noon

Parish Hall

Wednesdays

Office Open

9am - Noon

Thursdays

Choir Practice

6:30 pm

Sanctuary

Fridays

Office Open

9 am - Noon

First Saturdays

Men B'fast

8 am

Parish Hall

Sundays

Worship Service

9:30 am

For information about groups or scheduling the building, contact the Church Office.

Vestry Notes

Volunteers for three committees NEEDED:

Membership- Greeting new members, distributing new member material, making the clergy aware of new member opportunities and needs, and the like. For additional questions, please reach out to **Mike Morgan or Eric Wetzel**

Events/Advertising- Planning events and Advertising them to the congregation and community. For additional information, please reach out to **Laura Johnston or Mike Morgan**

Inreach- Planning Congregational and individual member retreats and missions. For additional information, please contact **Eric Wetzel**.



Is one of these **YOUR** hand?

STAG & STAFF



2024 United Thank Offering GRANTS

\$1,003,283.78 was awarded for projects addressing the focus of "the stranger" Jesus mentions in Matthew 25, offering welcome and inclusivity. Specifically, projects that welcome people with differences that cause isolation (culture, life experience, disability, mental health, etcetera) in new ways that are meaningful and deemed necessary by that community or projects that encourage truth telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a pathway towards healing.



PROJECTS SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS, MIGRANTS, REFUGEES

\$40,495

Diocese of Chicago:
Community Based Accompaniment
for People Seeking Asylum

\$30,000

Diocese of Easton:
Easton English School at Trinity

\$55,000

Diocese of Ecuador Litoral:
Inclusion, Equality, and the
Opportunity to Learn Together

\$55,000

Province of Korea:
Diocese of Daejeon
Another Home, One Family

\$55,000

Province of Mozambique:
Diocese of Rio Pungue
Construction of a
Welcome Center



PROJECTS SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BUILDING

\$19,660

Diocese of Cuba:
Shortening Distances, Bridging Gaps:
Labor Ministry Without Borders

\$55,000

Diocese of Venezuela
José Gregorio Hernández Pastoral
Health Project

\$54,000

Province of Central America:
Diocese of Guatemala
House of Love for the Chronically Ill

\$54,938

Province of Congo:
Diocese of Bukavu
Center for the Holistic Care of Women
Victims of Domestic Violence

\$48,900

Province of Kenya:
Diocese of Bondo
St. Timothy's Children's Hope Center

\$9,200

Province of Korea:
Diocese of Busan
Empowerment through Café Inclusion

\$48,500

Province of Tanzania:
Diocese of Tabora
Inclusive Shelter and
Empowerment Center



PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY

\$55,000

Province Five:
Engaging Gender Complexity

\$55,000

Episcopal Migration Ministries:
Rainbow Asylum Ministry

\$43,150

Diocese of South Dakota
Shepherd's Table

\$55,000

Province of Brazil:
Diocese of Recife
People are made to Shine!

HISTORIC GRANTS

\$35,000

Emery Trust Award: Archives
Records of the Women of the Church:
Preservation and Digitization Project

\$45,000

Emery Trust Award: Global Partners
Discernment for the
Second Half of Life

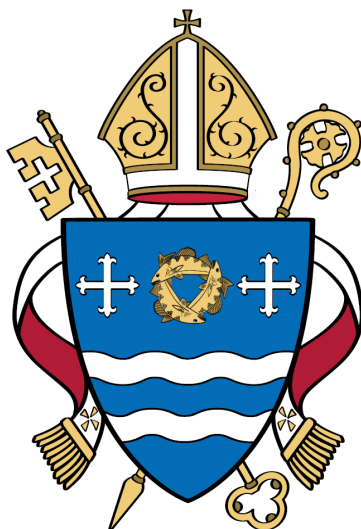
\$1,729.96

The Great EpisGOpal Race
Episcopal Migration Ministries

\$187,260.82

Challenge Grant:
Diocese of Jerusalem

St. Aidan's United Thank Offering Ingathering will be MAY 11, Mother's Day. Please bring your Blue Boxes or checks to church that Sunday.



notation, connected as it is to the story of Jesus's feeding the multitude and that story's foreshadowing of the Eucharist. Finally, these specific fish are walleye, connecting this ancient Christian symbol to a kind of fish with so much importance for our state. Flanking the fish are crosses fleury, meaning they are tipped with fleur-de-lis, a design carried over from the seals of the three historic dioceses of Wisconsin. Around the shield in the coat of arms is a mitre, crozier, and key, traditional elements in coats of arms for dioceses of the Episcopal Church.

Looking Ahead:

The new diocesan seal and coat of arms mark an important moment in the Diocese of Wisconsin's history, visually affirming our unity and shared mission. Stay tuned for more updates as we develop a contemporary diocesan logo.

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Diocesan Seal** – An official emblem used to represent the diocese, often featuring symbols significant to its identity and history.
- **Coat of Arms** – A heraldic design featuring symbols and elements that represent the diocese, typically displayed on a shield.
- **Vesica** – A pointed oval shape (often resembling a lemon) commonly used in Christian iconography and heraldry to frame religious symbols.
- **Heraldry** – The art and practice of designing, describing, and displaying coats of arms and other symbols of identity.
- **Mitre** – A ceremonial headdress worn by bishops, symbolizing their authority.
- **Crozier** – A bishop's staff, shaped like a shepherd's crook, representing pastoral care, leadership.
- **Key** – A symbol often associated with ecclesiastical authority, derived from St. Peter receiving the "keys to the kingdom" from Jesus.
- **Crosses Fleury** – A type of cross with its arms ending in fleur-de-lis, a stylized lily symbol often associated with the Holy Trinity and purity.
- **Trinity** – The Christian doctrine that God exists as three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit, yet is one God.
- **ἰχθύς (Ikhthús)** – The Greek word for "fish," used as an acronym in early Christianity for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."
- **Discipleship** – The act of following and spreading the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- **Eucharist** – The Christian sacrament of Holy Communion, commemorating Jesus's Last Supper with bread and wine.
- **Walleye** – A freshwater fish significant to Wisconsin, used in the design to symbolize local identity.
- **Mission Council** – A governing or advisory body within the diocese responsible for decision-making and oversight.

The Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin Seal and Coat of Arms, adopted March, 2025

The Process:

Late last summer, a team from across the newly reunited Diocese of Wisconsin with art and design experience began discerning a new diocesan seal design. This dedicated team was composed of Father Chris Corbin, Deacon Nancy Hills, Randy Miller, Dean Patrick Perkins, and Jennifer Williams. After months of reflection and refinement in conversation with Father Guy Selvester of South Amboy, NJ, an expert in heraldry, the team was ready to present the proposed design to the Diocese of Wisconsin Mission Council. After further refining in response to its input, the Mission Council approved a new seal and shield for the Diocese of Wisconsin. The official seal and shield are traditional in design. We are now working on a more contemporary logo that we can also use for diocesan communication and publicity.

Heraldic Explanation:

The two images are the seal and coat of arms, with the seal being the coat of arms contained in a vesica (the lemon shape) with the name and original diocesan date of establishment. The waves in the lower half of the shield in the coat of arms are the heraldic representation of water, an allusion to the many lakes and rivers that so influenced the history and culture of our state. The dominance of blue in the design also alludes to the blue of Wisconsin's abundant lakes and rivers. It is also a reminder of the waters of baptism and the "living water" promised by Jesus. In the top center of the shield are three intertwined fish, an ancient Christian symbol for the Trinity and a reference to the coming together of the three historic Dioceses.

The symbol of the fish is rich with further Christian meaning. It predates even the cross as a symbol of Christianity since the Greek word for fish, ἰχθύς (ikhthús), could be an acronym for "Jesus Christ, son of God, savior." The fish has a connection to discipleship and mission, reminding us of Jesus's calling the first disciples to be "fishers of people." The fish even has a Eucharistic con-