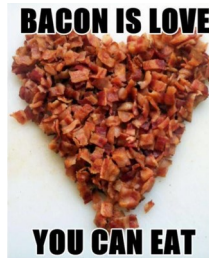




ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

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



Men's Breakfast

First Saturdays

February 1

Cooking 8am

Eating 8:30am



Life As We Know It is a book of "Stories of People, Climate, and Hope in a Changing World," by Bill Weir. Anderson Cooper describes it best: "It's moving, funny, frank, well-researched, beautifully written and looks at climate change in a way I've never seen before."

I highly recommend it. It gives the reader hope.
Geri Kelly

St. Aidan's Creation Care Commission Meeting

February 9

After Worship

The work continues —

STAY ENGAGED!

from *The Peak*, Colorado College



Bishop's Visitation

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Wisconsin will visit St. Aidan's and preach

**Sunday,
February 2**

A special Coffee Hour will follow the worship service.





Deaconspeak

musings from the left shoulder

Ah, as we turn to February our hearts and minds often turn our focus to -- LOVE. I attribute that to a quasi-holiday that occurs at the middle of the month. Like many holiday-ish traditions we are inundated with marketing urging us to purchase items and/or have celebrations related to romance. Whilst I am not one who wants to crush romantic love (*eros*), I feel it gets blown way out of proportion to its importance in our lives.

We have other definitions of LOVE, which are just as – if not more than – significant -- such as the LOVE (*phili*os) we might have for family and friends, those whom we ‘like.’ Probably the most valuable form of LOVE (*agape*) is that which God gives to us, and that Jesus calls us to have for one another: unconditional, sacrificial. Probably the most evident example of this in our society is from first responders, but we are all capable of offering agape love.

My dismay is that today’s loud, strident voices focus far more on philios-love and are corrupting that to apply only to those who are like oneself, claiming that all others are to be ostracized and ridiculed, blamed for the ills and problems in society. This is blatantly the opposite of Christ’s call to philios-love and, especially, agape-love which places others before oneself.

At the post-inauguration prayer service the Episcopal Bishop of Washington addressed the loudest, most strident voice, exhorting agape-love. She pleaded that we need to work for unity which is based on the biblical foundations of dignity, honesty and humility. She asked for mercy on those who now live in fear. The response was anything but love and mercy. Instead, the reactions were ridicule and criticism, and even death threats.

LOVE is what Jesus calls us to share. When faced with hatred, respond with love and forgiveness. When encountering those filled with fear, respond with love and compassion. When falsehoods arise, respond with love and enlightenment. When experiencing injustice, respond with love and kindness. When hearts are hurting, respond with love and patience. Respond first with LOVE.

Agape/Philios/Eros-Love in Christ -
terry

Offering Envelopes

We are trying a new offering method. Each family will receive a numbered offering envelope box, allowing our counters and treasurer to easily identify weekly giving.

Please pick up your box in the Narthex or contact the office or Mary Moran. Thank you for helping to make bookkeeping easier each week!

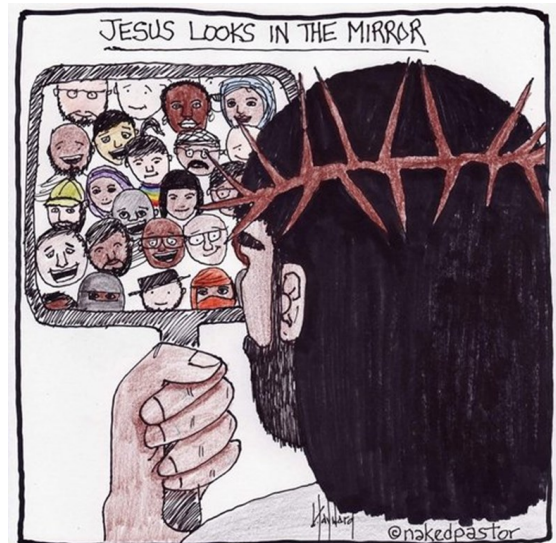
If you give electronically, you may insert a "Giving Card" into your envelope and put it in the offering plate. Giving Cards will be available in the pews and will be blessed during Sunday worship service.

Tara Nooyen
Parish Administrator

Mary Moran
Parish Treasurer

ST. AIDAN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!



STAG & STAFF

GOOD NEWS

From the *West Bend Daily News* —
“**JP Schrunk**, son of **Louise and Brian Schrunk**, was named a Student of the Week [Central Middle School, Hartford] because he is a leader in and out of class, according to the [press] release.

“He is always willing to help others. He works hard and finds success from it.” JP has also been tapped to play the lead, Simba, in Central’s production of *The Lion King!* Performances are April 25th to 27th and May 2nd to 4th

Congratulations from your St. Aidan family!



Community Lunch

Congratulations to the Hartford Community Lunch. This past month the committee has now served over **10,000 meals!** They serve an average of 80 meals on the last Saturday of every month.

It is geared for anyone looking to have a free hot meal served to the table with some socializing.

Peter Koeller began this Ecumenical out-reach ministry at St Aidan’s but soon grew in popularity so much that it was moved to the larger space at United Methodist Church. St. Kilian’s Catholic Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church are also involved.

The organizers have the bragging rights as they hold down the costs to under \$2.00 a plate! The meal starts at 11:30 am with a prayer and recognizing birthdays and anniversaries. They then serve till 12:15 pm.

Any questions about this ministry and/or volunteering can be directed to **Judy Pierce** or **Ron Schnorenberg**.



From the *West Bend Daily News* —
Patriots Pen

The Patriots Pen contest is a nationwide program sponsored by the VFW through which over 138,000 students compete for \$55,000 in scholarships. In the local area, 550 students from 14 schools across five counties participated in the contest.

Samantha Schmidt, daughter of **Michael and Eileen Schmidt**, has won this year’s Patriots Pen essay contest for Hartford.

Great work, Samantha!



From **Susan & Steve Trewyn** —

We were lucky to have the whole family home last summer, and our daughter-in-law snapped us all on a selfie! It was a fun time — though challenging to keep the refrigerator full!



Dear Friends,

At our Annual Parish Meeting on January 26, it was my pleasure to make a report to the congregation. Making an annual report at this meeting is one of the canonical responsibilities of a parish priest, and it is a task I sincerely enjoy! At the meeting I described my commitment to walking with all of you in the light of the new year. I often comment on sunshine streaming through the windows of our church nave on a Sunday morning. The sunshine energizes me and I can perceive the way sunshine energizes many of you. Even on those mornings when it is raining or cloudy, however, I believe that we are called to look for sunshine – in the glow of friendships, in the spark of hope that scripture offers, and in the way the Holy Spirit inspires us to be a light. I believe that more than at any other time in history, Christians are called to walk in the light of God’s love toward a bright future.

Especially now, as we enter 2025, walking as children of the light will not be easy for any of us. Many of us feel discouraged and anxious. We are aware of the dark forces at work in this nation and in our world. We are tempted to “go to a dark place.” Some people are tempted to talk about getting even. Some are pulling inward, saying that they are “giving up” on people and faith. Of course, I often feel disappointed by the twists and turns of life. That is why I ask you to return with me to our baptismal promises as together we renounce the spiritual forces of evil and agree to put our whole trust in God’s grace and love. This year, I pray that we will put our whole trust in God and walk in the light, as a congregation.



I believe that we are starting from a good place! In my view, 2024 was a successful “building year” for St. Aidan’s. We invested in our church with significant improvements to the physical plant. We also decided to move funds from our investments to “outreach” as we prepare to invest in activity that takes us beyond our own concerns. We raised funds for the church that will be used for “in reach” and will strengthen our community. We launched a spiritual formation program for young people that will lead to confirmation in 2026. We invested time and energy in streamlining our finances and prepared the church to set ministry priorities. We continue to maintain connections in the Hartford community and among our ecumenical church partners.

In 2025, I pray that we will discern a path toward the future as we spend time with one another and as we consider how we can share the message of God’s love in new ways. To help us discern, I would like us to engage with one another at an all-parish retreat. I would also like us to consider taking on one new parish project. We are the church, and we are at our best when we illuminate one another’s gifts, when we pause to see that we share a common purpose, and when we are walking in the light of God’s grace and love. I am confident that in 2025 we will see a clear path that God has prepared for us and we will walk together, in hope and with joy!

Mother Esther +



And then give me the strength to do the next right thing in *this life* I have been given, among *these people* you love, in *this place* you created.

Nadia Bolz-Weber, ELCA pastor

Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd.

Jalaluddin Rumi, poet and mystic (1207-1273)

ST. AIDAN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF

Tech Topics



Tom [Schlaefer] and I have been keeping a secret. We have been covertly live-streaming St. Aidan's worship services on YouTube since the middle of November. So far, we have reached an audience of one (me); we didn't want to publicize it until we knew we had all the bugs worked out. But now, we finally feel confident about making it known.

Access the stream in a couple of ways:

- ◆ First, our YouTube channel can be found by opening [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) in a browser or app and searching on *St Aidan's Hartford WI*.
- ◆ Or the web address of the channel is:
www.youtube.com/@staidanepiscopalchurchhar6634.
Either way, I suggest bookmarking the site for future use.
- ◆ Or, near the bottom of St. Aidan's website's home page (**www.staians-hartford.org**), there is a link that says **Watch Livestream** in the calendar section announcing the upcoming worship service.
- ◆ And finally, at the very bottom of the website's home page, there is a tiny YouTube icon that will take you right to our channel. The upcoming or current streams are prominently displayed on the channel's Home page.

Never fear. We will continue to send out the recording via email, if you are used to that, and it fits better into your schedule.



You can subscribe to the YouTube channel so that you never miss an exciting episode. Handy, but, in truth, **we would much rather have you present with us, a part of the video rather than just a viewer**. And if you are not wedded to your pew in the sanctuary, please consider sitting closer to the front. We have tricks and camera angles that make the church look more full, but nothing beats the energy you all bring to worship. We want to show it to the world.

Lorraine Garner

**It's not too soon to start —
DECLUTTERING!**



**St. Aidan's Annual Rummage Sale
April 25—26**

**Bring rummage all week beginning
Easter afternoon, April 20**

Questions? See **Linda Weber**

 **plant
sale**

**SPRING 2025
Saturday, May 17**

It's the time of year when many of us are tucked into our homes, waiting for winter to pass. A good way to pass those cold days might be to search out your home, basement, garage and shed to find **hidden treasures** which can be given to our plant sale! We're looking for **new and/or gently used garden tools, flower pots, yard art, bird houses, and feeders**. Perhaps you'd like to regift a new grill, set of BBQ tools, backyard fire pit, shepherds' hooks or wind chimes.

This is also a great time to **start plant cuttings** from your houseplants (please label the plant).

Laura Johnston



From Eric's Desk —

My kids have been in 4-H since they were in 3rd Grade. With Cameron graduating this year and Sydney next it has been near on a decade with this program. I love it. It gets kids out and active, shows them what they can accomplish, and through the meetings they can even learn the classic Robert's Rules or Order.

The big goal put in front of the kids each year is County Fair. A great week of seeing Friends and the Freedom of running across the Fair, uninhibited with not nearly enough money in your pocket to enjoy it all. A great week. Full of joy and tears in equal measure.

Part of, but also beyond the fun, is the judging. Put your project in front of an expert and get scored, to your face, no varnish. You find out, did I plan well, did I understand the assignment, do I know the standard?

This is the best and worst part of 4-H and the Fair. Hence the joy and tears. Each event is like the Westminster Dog Show. You are judged to a Standard. The Standard should represent what is best with the cow, goat, dress, wedding cake, poetry, whatever your project is. *This gets my hackles up.*

This is a long way around the mountain to talk about the word of the year, Collaboration.

I believe in collaboration down to the marrow in my bones. But what is the sense of collaboration if everyone has been weaned down to a standard of perfection?

Where do the new ideas come from? They will come from **YOU!**

We need collaboration, but it will be impotent, if we do not hear from y'all.



The Episcopal Church Welcomes All This is Our Strength



We cannot all just be there enjoying each other's sweet smiles and demeanors. Our Vestry goal of the year is through collaboration, **Do One Great Thing**.

What great thing do you want to do? Have the faith to bring it to the group, so through collaboration we can make a dream become reality.

Eric Wetzel
Sr. Warden

In the words written by Bennie Benjamin, Horace Ott, and Sol Marcus.
Then sung so well by Nina Simone, The Animals and Elvis Costello.

*"I'm just a soul whose intentions are good...
O Lord, please don't let me be misunderstood..."*



A Beautiful Baptism — Juno Mertens, welcome to the Body of Christ!



Ok. I am starting to get impatient for a change in the weather. There have been plenty of cold, dreary, gray days -- but the seed catalogs have come. Although I no longer have a big garden, I do have flower beds and love to browse the colorful pages, planning just where I might put a hibiscus bush or the mystery lily bulbs. I have a lot of canna lilies from Pete's garden. I have never grown them before so they should be a new adventure. In the meantime, I clean closets, sorting out things for the rummage sale, do my German class homework at the last minute (some things never change), and try to think of something new to make for dinner. We have also been sorting old photos. Have I mentioned this before? It is a good winter job, and I hold out hope that we can get it done before spring. Maybe. In the meantime, I sort recipes as well, and that is where this one comes from. It happens to be gluten free, but the test kitchen (my sister Ann) says it works fine with an orange and a lemon and substituting part regular flour if you don't have enough almond flour. Something citrus-y and sweet to get us through the last few cold weeks.

Orange Almond Cake

2 oranges

Seed, chop everything (including the peel) into chunks and blend into a pulp

6 eggs

2 3/4 cups almond flour

1 1/4 teaspoons baking powder

Stir everything together and pour into a greased 9" springform pan.

Bake at 350* 50 to 60 minutes.

Alice Pollock

ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



	2	9	16	23
Reader	C. Gardner	A. Pollock	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda
Prayers	E. Schmidt	B. Pollock	L. Schrunk	K. Fairchild
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	L. Daley	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk
Usher	Pollocks	Webers	Schmidts	R. Schnorenberg
LEM	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk
Counters	C. Gardner/A. M-Meigs	Schnorenberg/Pierce	Fairchild/M.B. Moran	Hoffmann/Weber
Cleaners	Pollock	Schnorenberg/Johnston	Gardner	Weber/Johnston
Altar	K. Fairchild			

MARCH



2025

	2	9	16	23	30
Reader	D. Beml	M.B. Moran	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann	B. Pollock
Prayers	A. Pollock	L. Molenda	C. Gardner	D. Beml	T. Schlaefer
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	L. Daley	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	L. Daley
Usher	Schrunks	Pollocks	L. Molenda	Webers	Schmidts
LEM	M. Weber	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk
Counters	M-Meigs/Schnorenberg	Gardner/Fairchild	Moran/Hoffmann	M-Meigs/Pierce	Fairchild/Weber
Cleaners	Weber	Trewyn/Johnston	Pollock	Weber	Schnorenberg/Johnston
Altar	g. Hefti				

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.

PARISH EVENTS FEBRUARY — 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3rd Sunday — Sharing Sunday The “loose” [paper and coin] collection supports XX Esther’s discretionary fund. She uses it to help people in our community in need — more often than you might think!</p>						<p>1</p>  <p>Men’s B’fast 8:30 am</p>
<p>2 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am</p> <p>Bishop’s Visit</p>	3	4	<p>5</p>  <p>St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	7	8
<p>9 Worship — 9:30 am Confirmation after worship</p> <p>Creation Care Meeting</p>	10	11	<p>12</p>  <p>St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> 	15
<p>16 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am</p> <p>Vestry Meeting</p> <p>Stag & Staff articles due</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Presidents’ Day</p>	18	<p>19</p>  <p>St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	21	<p>22</p>  <p>Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist</p>
<p>23 Worship — 9:30 am Confirmation after worship</p> <p>ECW Meeting</p>	24	25	<p>26</p>  <p>St. A. B’fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Choir 6:30 pm</p>	28	

“WE ARE THE **Episcopal** BRANCH OF THE **Jesus movement**”
 —Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

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

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Pastoral Assistant

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lorettawell@gmail.com

Deacon Terry Garner

414-807-4378

dcnterry.g@gmail.com

Tara Nooyen

Administrative Assistant

secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Mary Beth Moran, Treasurer

Vestry Wardens

Eric Wetzel, Senior Warden

Junior Warden, Laura Johnston

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 Chain

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something,

please call **Alice Pollock** [262-707-3456] or the church office.



Mondays --

Men's 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.



The New St. Aidan's Directory will be out Sunday, February 2! Please pick yours up in the Narthex!

Thank you for your patience as the creation and production was taking place! Your individual pictures will be e-mailed to you in the coming weeks. You will be able to print them at home or a photo printer of your choice.

Weather Cancellation Information

If the weather outside is frightful, check your email for worship service cancellation information from the church.



Abou Ben Adhem

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
 Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
 And saw within the moonlight in his room,
 Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,
 An angel writing in a book of gold;
 Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
 And to the Presence in the room he said,
 "What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,
 And with a look made of all sweet accord,
 Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
 "And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay. Not so,"
 Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
 But cheerily still, and said, "I pray thee, then,
 Write me as one that loves his fellowmen."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
 It came again with a great wakening light,
 And showed the names whom love of God had blessed;
 And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest!

Leigh Hunt



*Birthdays
&
Anniversaries*

- 1 Tom Barnes
- 5 Earl Wetzel
- 19 Ken Dinco
- 21 Aurelia Mertens
- 25 David Pietsch
- 26 Donna & Ken Dinco



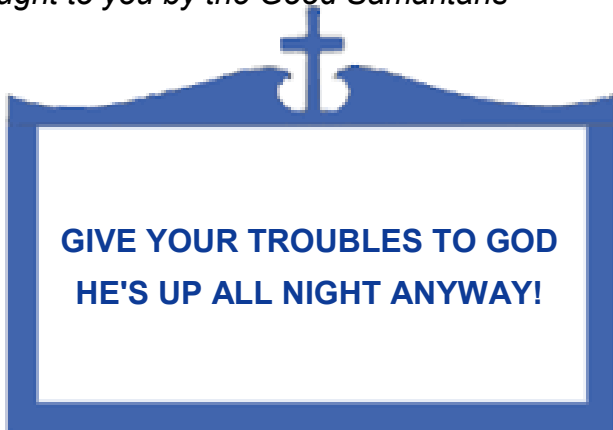
Episcopal Church Women

St. Aidan's ECW will meet after Worship, **February 23**. Discussion will include:

- Christmas Bazaar Report
- Distribution of ECW funds
- Existing and new projects
- Brief organization business

All women attending St. Aidan's are considered Episcopal Church Women!

Our favorite Church Sign of the Month brought to you by the Good Samaritans —



Maybe the Good Samaritans of St Aidans can also help?

Call **Ron** at 414-416-9118
ronschnorenberg@gmail.com



Hartford Community Lunch
Saturday, February 22
11:30 am
1st United Methodist

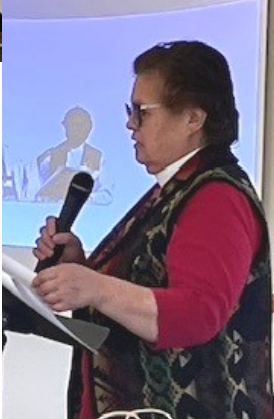
Lunch is served at 11:30am. Come for a free hot meal with the Hartford Community! To volunteer [9 am—2 pm], just show up on the day.

If you have questions, please contact **Larry Thomas at 262-955-4900**.

St. Aidan's Annual Meeting 2025

Wonderful music!

Speakers —



Attentive parishioners!

