



ST. AIDAN'S

happy new year

STAG & STAFF

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



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025

After the Worship Service

Men's Breakfast
First Saturdays
January 4
 Cooking 8am — Eating



Winter at the Little Pantry

This winter is an especially critical time for our Little Pantry visitors. Several local companies have announced plant closings and/or reduced work weeks so the need is greater!

Following is a list of items most needed [no glass or cans during cold winter months, please — it's freezing out there!].

- macaroni and cheese**
- instant potatoes, rice and pasta mixes**
- juice mixes (powder or in pouches)**
- granola bars/cereal**
- crackers/snacks**
- peanut butter and jelly**
- deodorant**
- feminine hygiene products**
- toothpaste/toothbrushes/dental floss**

Your monetary gift (labeled Little Pantry) is also greatly appreciated.



**One Lord,
One Faith,
One Baptism.**



Join the St. Aidan's family in welcoming **Juno** into the fellowship of Christ. We will celebrate Juno's Baptism with her parents, **Molly and Zach Mertens** and her sister, **Aurelia**, on **Sunday, January 12**, during the Worship Service at 9:30 am.



Episcopal Church Women

St. Aidan's ECW will meet after
Worship, **January 19**. 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!



Esther's Epistle

Dear Friends,

On **January 12, Epiphany Sunday**, we welcome Juno Mertens into the community of Christ! With her parents Molly and Zach and her sister Aurelia, we will re-commit ourselves to living our Baptismal Covenant. We will agree to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. It will be a great celebration; however, finding ways to live in these ways is not so obvious or easy. Through the various stages of our lives, we might wonder how to ask for support in living a life of faith. We might want to gather with other believers to experience worship or conversation in some new ways.

As we begin this new year, I hope you will join me in thinking about the ways we can help one another grow in our faith. On **January 26** following worship, we will hold our **Annual Meeting** where we approve the minutes from last year's meeting, receive reports, and elect people to serve in leadership roles. I encourage everyone to participate in the parish hall or via Zoom, and I ask that you pray for the Holy Spirit to be our guide. At this meeting, it is important for us to review our current ministries and consider how we might more fully live into our Baptismal Covenant.

The 2025 budget for the church will be presented at the Annual Meeting, and I would like you to think of it as a plan for supporting current ministries. I'm also asking you to think ahead. I want you to imagine new ministries or programs that will support our church community, ponder news ways to involve children and youth which provide a foundation of Christian understanding, envision new forms of outreach that will serve a changing community, and prayerfully consider how ministries can merge.

In the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 855, we are reminded that the "mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." We are to pursue this mission through prayer, worship, proclaiming the Gospel, and promoting justice, peace and love. This is a call to remember our Baptismal Covenant by engaging in making both long and short-term plans. I pray that God will bless St. Aidan's and strengthen us as we all grow in faith and pursue the mission of Christ's church.

Mother Esther +



Under the able leadership of **Mary Moran**, St. Aidan's once again stepped up to provide gifts identified on The Giving Tree for those in need.

This month's favorite Church Sign brought to you by the **Good Samaritans of St Aidan's:**
Give Satan an inch;
he will become your Ruler
However, give the Good Samaritans a call, they will become your helper!
Ron Schnorenberg 414-416-9118
[Sign borrowed from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Slinger]



From Donna's Desk

Walk in Love

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." [Ephesians 5:1-2 NRSVT]

Walk in Love is the theme of our 2025 Annual giving campaign. Our *Walk in Love* journey is not only the weekly liturgy words, "Walk in love as Christ loved us" but also includes telling our personal stories and those stories printed each week in the bulletin. Our *Walk in Love* journey has helped me reflect on compassion, generosity, kindness, grace, abundance, and crossing boundaries. "There is something that opens up when two people walk together." (Rev. Pete Nunnally) All of these and gratitude connect me to St. Aidan's. How we share our gifts and stories is a reminder that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. We give because of our experiences in the story of our faith.



Each of us has a gift. Each of you has something you do well. For some it is cooking or baking, others might have beautiful singing voices. We praise those who have administrative gifts, bookkeeping and finance skills, or count the collection. We admire those who offer hospitality, welcome new members to St. Aidan's, who serve at the altar, read scripture or prayers of the people, those who usher or adorn the altar with flowers, those who teach and help our children become involved in ministries that they create, or those who provide for the Little Pantry on Monroe Avenue. Whatever your ministries are, we could not be who we are without you. Your gifts help all parish ministries grow and flourish, maintain our building, expand our worship services, and keep the church safe for everyone.

Ministry to each other and the greater community also requires financial resources to fund a priest, facility, and general operations, to name a few. We are carefully reviewing our expenses and will, again for the third year, present a balanced budget at the annual meeting on January 26, 2025. The budget reflects a good estimation of our expenses and anticipated income from pledges, identified giving, and revenues from projects, grants, or building use. The Diocesan convention in October approved a 3% increase in salary for all clergy. Mother Esther's salary will reflect the 3% increase (\$1,614.00). Remember that we do not have to pay for Mother Esther's health insurance, and with pledges and anticipated giving on track again for this year, we have a cash flow that is comfortable and provides flexibility to negotiate unexpected expenses. Our largest expense, personnel/salaries is at 63% of the budget, with building/operations at 17% (an increase from 62% and 16%). Our goal has been to maintain budget percentages, knowing that inflationary costs will continue to impact our budget planning. We want to maintain an operating reserve (cash flow) and a reserve account (emergencies).

This season of giving abounds with love, kindness, reconnecting with family and friends, childhood wonder, and gratitude. This season of giving is also a chance to reflect on your gifts to St. Aidan's. You will receive annual giving materials in early January 2025. Again, I invite you to reflect on how your response to time, talent, resources and attending has shaped our faith community and your family and friends who gather with you. Giving may look different from person to person and family to family. Our gifts are about how we grow into our mission and how we continue to grow in the abundance of generosity that has always been at the heart of St. Aidan's. If you have not pledged before, I encourage you to consider a pledge for 2025. Pledges help us to better plan for our continued needs. I am grateful and very appreciative for all that you do and all that you are. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us.

Blessings as together we begin 2025.

Donna Dinco



Alice's Restaurant

It is well and truly winter. All the leaves are off the trees. It is cold enough to put out the suet feeders for the birds -- and the not yet hibernating squirrels. The squirrels have been feasting on the peanut butter feeder and when they finished the peanut butter, they started on the dowel perches put there for the convenience of the little birds. Ah well. Those same squirrels have found a winter home in the big pile of summer cut branches in the woods. I imagine they had to fight for space with the grey rabbits who used it last winter.

The birds are great predictors of weather. Today (chilly and damp but not below freezing) they are in and out haphazardly. A few days ago, when there was single digit temperature and grey snow clouds, they crowded the feeders stocking up before retiring to the dogwood thicket to wait out the storm. It must be a universal reaction because when the weather gets threatening, I cook, searching out crockpot recipes or stews or casseroles with thick cheesy sauces. This week it was a hearty soup simmered on the back burner and then blended until creamy and served with toast and a bit of cheese and sliced apple on the side. It makes a fine supper on a cold grey evening. Keep warm; check with the birds for the weather report.

Sweet Potato Carrot Soup

- Two large carrots chopped into chunks
- 1 good sized sweet potato peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 leeks sliced (always a good idea to rinse leeks) (or half an onion)
- 1 apple cored and peeled
- 3 cups vegetable broth
(more or less, depending thickness)
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon of ginger (more if you like, I do)

Simmer all together until the carrots are soft and then cool a bit and blend. Taste to adjust the seasoning.

Alice Pollock

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Aidan's Youth



Learning St. Aidan's signature specialty from the master cookie decorator, **Linda Weber**.



Participating in the worship with Advent symbols.

Outreach Committee at Work

We recently received a *Love Your Neighbor Grant* from the diocese for \$1,000. With this grant, we will provide more infant and toddler food items, hygiene supplies; and a greater variety of nonperishable food items. Most importantly, we will provide more food security to our neighbors who may be unemployed as the manufacturing sector in Hartford implements rolling layoffs.

The *Love Your Neighbor* grant supports St. Aidan's mission, to be "*God's light and loving presence through faith, sacrament and outreach,*" The St. Aidan's Little Food Pantry ministry brings together our parishioners and the local community and fosters an ongoing caring relationship.



STAG & STAFF



People in the Parish —

Mike Weber

You might have seen a man bundled up while grilling bratwurst in the St. Aidan's parking lot during the Christmas Bazaar a few weeks ago.

Now that's stewardship.

"It wasn't that cold," Mike Weber said. "The wind was terrible."

Serving as a grill master is just one of Mike's many tasks at St. Aidan's over the last 42 years. That's right. **Mike and Linda Weber** joined the church in 1982 and are still going strong.

Linda's energetic and creative contributions to the church are another story. But suffice it to say she and Mike work as a team. "My role is to do whatever she tells me to do," Mike joked. "We have a little saying on the TV stand: 'I'm not bossy. I'm motivational.' She and I work well together. It's been a whirlwind but it's been a great marriage."

The 2025 stewardship campaign begins in January when members make a financial commitment to the church for the budget year. Mike is familiar with that side of things as a past treasurer at St. Aidan's and a stint as treasurer of the Milwaukee Diocese from 2020 through 2023. He first joined the diocesan finance committee in 2016. Mike worked on changing the parish financial review process, something that may undergo more tweaks after the recent unification of three Wisconsin dioceses into one.

"It was not so much the process was unwieldy, but you did everything and then you had the privilege of paying \$500 to \$1,000 for it," he said. "We then brought it in-house, and we worked to hire people that had some financial background to do the reviews." Later the diocese hired Caroline Senn as chief financial officer to oversee the review process for 48 parishes, a number that has grown to 101 in the unified diocese.

Mike has served as senior warden at St. Aidan's several times during the past 40-plus years. But it's a bit amazing he and Linda landed here. Initially they attended the former St. Timothy's on 90th and Capitol streets in Milwaukee. They were living in Wauwatosa in 1982 but moved to Pewaukee that spring and later to Hartland in 1984. Mike was teaching in middle school in Hartford and had colleagues who attended St. Aidan's.

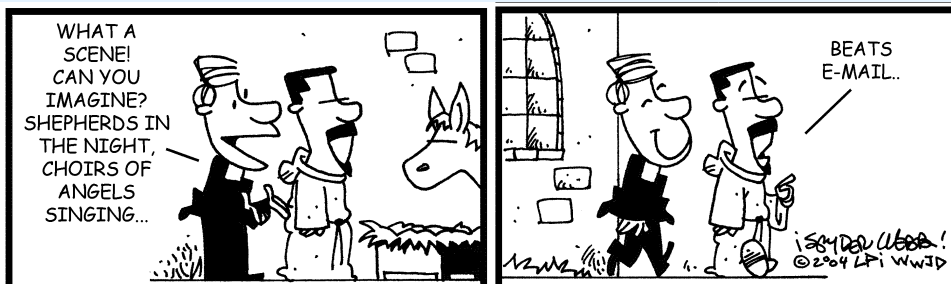
"We got married at St. Anskar's in Hartland," Mike said. "My brother was a deacon there at the time. When we were in Pewaukee we lived about a half mile from the Episcopal church.

"Going a specific way, I'd go past St. Anskar's and St. Peter's in North Lake. I could have gone past three churches before I'd get to St. Aidan's. But we've always gone to St. Aidan's."

Mike and Linda were co-chairs of the capital campaign that retired the mortgage debt on the St. Aidan's building, a project that raised more than \$200,000 from 2014-'17. "People at St. Aidan's tend to be very giving, not only with their treasures but with their time and talents," Mike said.

"The people here are willing to work and provide for the spreading of God's word."

Charles Gardner
Senior staff writer



Christmas Bazaar & Cookie Sale

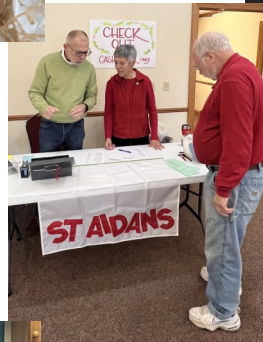
Each year the women of St. Aidan's ECW wonder if they can indeed host still another Christmas bazaar. Each year we are blessed with so much support throughout our church family and the community that another great bazaar has happened. So many thanks to so many people. Parishioners from 16 to well into their 90's donated their talents. Those talents included baking cookies and breads, making candies and bars, knitting hats and painting cards. The creativity of this congregation is amazing. As always, the hardworking people behind the scenes made the bazaar run better than ever. Sincere thanks to those who washed dishes, provided lunches, vacuumed floors, cleaned bathrooms, moved tables, cleaned up after, and generally did all the invisible tasks that allow an event to run smoothly. Many of you are numbers people, so here are just a few that make it so clear that it was a churchwide event.

- Tables moved 50+
- Lunches provided for workers 90+
- Cookies decorated 1500
- Assorted cookies baked 1900
- Cups of soup and chili sold 83
- Oreo cookies dipped 250
- Pounds of Powdered sugar used 100
- Man and woman hours decorating 150+

New friendships made and old friendships renewed --too many to count.

I always say that our bazaar is about more than just the money. That said, the money raised allows ECW to continue their support of St. Aidan's and outreach. Many thanks for helping us to raise \$7400 on our bazaar!

Blessings, Linda Weber



ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2025

	5	12	19	26
Reader	M. Hoffmann	B. Pollock	B. Mendoza	T. Schlaefer
Prayers	C. Gardner	D. Beml	T. Schlaefer	M. Hoffmann
Acolyte	A. Schrunk	L. Daley	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk
Usher	R. Schnorenberg	L. Molenda	J. Pierce	B. Schrunk
LEM	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann	A. Pollock	M. Weber
Counters	M. Weber/A. M Meigs	J. Pierce/C. Gardner	Schnorenberg/Fairchild	M.B. Moran/Hoffmann
Cleaning	Gardner	Mercado/Johnston	Weber	Trewyn/Johnston
Altar	S. Trewyn			

FEBRUARY 2025

	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
Altar	K. Fairchild			

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 — JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  Office closed	2	3 Office open 9 am — Noon	4  Men's B'fast 8:30 am
5 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	6	7	8  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 am — Noon	9	10 Office open 9 am — Noon	11
12 Epiphany Worship — 9:30 am  Merten Baptism Confirmation after Worship	13	14	15  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 am — Noon	16	17 Office open 9 am — Noon	18
19 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am ECW Meeting After Worship  Stag & Staff articles due	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 am — Noon	23	24 Office open 9 am — Noon	25  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist
26 Worship — 9:30 am Confirmation 	27	28	29  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 am — Noon	30	31 Office open 9 am — Noon	February 1  Men's B'fast 8:30 am

“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

Church Phone: 262-673-7273

The Rev. Esther Kramer, Ph. D.

262-309-7661

estherkramer0806@gmail.com

La Pastora Loretta Mendoza

Pastoral Assistant

414-243-2639

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

Donna Dinco, Senior Warden

Eric Wetzel, Junior Warden

Vestry

Charles Gardner

Laura Johnston

Lynn Molenda

Eileen Schmidt

Vestry Clerk

Geri Kelly

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan's Newsletter

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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.

Hartford Community Lunch
Saturday, January 25
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**.

Weather Cancellation Information

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

January Birthdays

5 Eric Wetzel	20 Andy Itzov
9 Mike Kaker	Ron Schnorenberg
11 Megan Wetzel	23 Sarah King
14 Michael Schmidt	