



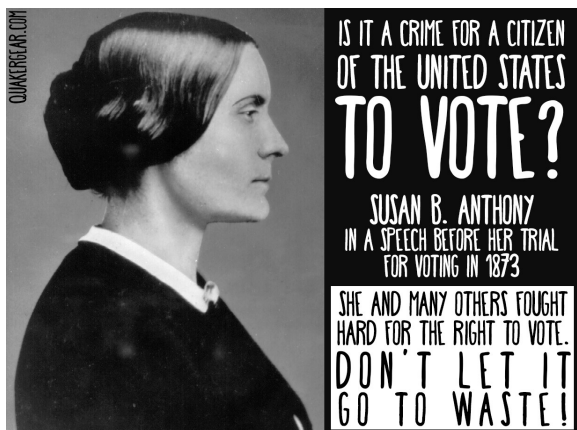
# ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

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

NOVEMBER 2020 VOLUME XXV NUMBER 11

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## Welcome to St Aidan's Pastor Kramer!

A few years ago, Esther Kramer thought she was being called to be a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. But a big surprise was in store. There also was another call waiting for her. "It was a very significant moment in my life," she said. "I happened to be sitting in a church in Delafield, St. John Chrysostom. I just couldn't do anything but pursue the work of the church, but I couldn't figure out exactly what that meant. I realized after a bit the diaconate was not quite the call. The call was to the priesthood. That meant giving up everything."



That moment led Pastor Esther on the path to become a priest. She was ordained on August 6, 2020 at All Saints' Cathedral, and it has led her to St. Aidan's where she has been called as part-time priest in charge of the congregation. She officially began her duties with the recorded worship service on October 18.

"The thing I find really exciting about St. Aidan's, I think it's really my style of church," Pastor

*"When I think about [ordination], it really gives me chills. It was exactly what I was called to. It took me a while to figure it out."*

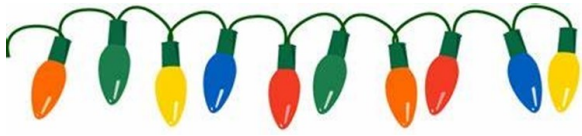
Esther said. "I think it's a good match. "It's not just coming from the pulpit and it's not just part of the Sunday morning service. It's when we meet as a

book group, or I love that men's group and the Wild Game [dinner]. That is the community of Christ, the body of Christ and I love to think about all those opportunities."

The global pandemic has created huge challenges for churches and limited personal contact. Services have moved online and the surging number of Covid-19 cases in Wisconsin has pushed back an opportunity to resume in-person worship at St. Aidan's. Pastor Esther said her first priority is to organize Zoom get-togethers in small groups, so she can get to know members of St. Aidan's and begin planning for the future.

"I think patience is a big part of this," she said. "None of us wants to be in our houses all the time, but if we can Zoom together and start making plans together, we can use the time wisely."

Continued on page 2



## Recycle your non-working Christmas lights!

**Starts Sunday November 1  
Ends Friday January 15  
St John's UCC  
228 W. State Street**

Trailer will be placed next to the church garage.  
Toss in those non-working lights!  
Lights only please.



If you're having problems trying to use BREEZE for church membership info, contact Bruce: 262-707-7896 or [bruce1pollock@gmail.com](mailto:bruce1pollock@gmail.com)



## Pastor Kramer [continued]

She is already thinking about Advent plans and is eager to work with church musician, Scott Eakins, and members on keeping music a vital part of worship. "I'm glad there are people who are interested," Pastor Esther said. "Maybe there could be some other ways of experiencing music and find a way to be physically distant. In the winter, I'm not exactly sure how we're going to do this. I want to listen to what other people have to suggest on how to go forward."

Pastor Esther credits her time as an administrator at Nashotah House as being pivotal in transitioning from a career in education to a second career. She was involved in higher education for 34 years, working in different jobs in Illinois, Michigan, South Carolina, Georgia and Wisconsin. She earned a doctorate degree in communication and public policy from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1995. She went on to serve at colleges including Columbia College in Columbia, S.C., Mercer College in Macon, Ga., and more recently at Waukesha County Technical College (from 2013-16).

The late Steven Peay, formerly dean and president at Nashotah House, hired her to work on the accreditation process for the seminary in January 2016. "He really influenced me," Pastor Esther said. "I miss him very, very much. We had a good group of people. It really gave me the nudge I needed to pursue the priesthood."

She and her husband, Tom Schlaefer, have planned carefully to mesh their careers since their marriage in 1986. Tom worked at General Motors in Michigan before moving on to run his own manufacturing plants. He currently is the general manager of a plant in Milwaukee, Chicago Faucets, which makes touchless faucets.

The couple loves to renovate homes. Their Delafield house is No. 13 on the list. "The houses are a funny thing," Pastor Esther said. "We renovate each one of them. Here we took the second story off; we moved the staircases. "Tom does all the work. He does all the carpentry and the plumbing and the electrical, everything. It is a lot. He really is very creative, and we design these spaces together."



They like to hike and spend plenty of time looking after their dogs, Henri and Fiona. "Henri is a Chihuahua. We call him the Clay Matthews of Chihuahuas," Pastor Esther said, referring to the former Green Bay Packers linebacker. "Fiona (a rat terrier) is about 24 pounds and she is definitely a little princess."

Pastor Esther comes from a Methodist background. Her father, Cletus, and two uncles were clergy in the Methodist church. She said she was blessed to be able to have Tom and her 88-year-old dad and mother, Eileen, attend her ordination. "It was at the cathedral, but I only could have 10 people," she said. "We were masked and distanced. "When I think about it, it really gives me chills. It was exactly what I was called to. It took me a while to figure it out."



**Charles Gardner**  
Senior Staff Writer

## A fond farewell --



Fr. Lars, Katie, Jayne, and Oskar Skoglund bid goodbye to St. Aidan's at the Driveway Service, October 10. Fr. Lars has been called as rector to St. Michael's in Racine. To send cards or notes, their new address is:  
4635 N. Erie St.  
Racine, WI 53402

*St. Aidan's wishes the whole family congratulations and blessings on their new adventure!*

 **HANKS!**



**Pastora Loretta** has supplied for the Driveway Services recently -- even in a cold, cold wind!

**Our heartfelt thanks!**

Why do I tithe?

I never realized how important the people of St. Aidan's were to me until I no longer saw them each Sunday. I never realized how much of a people-person I was until my bubble consisted only of my husband and children. I miss the people of St. Aidan's more than I could ever have imagined. Having Communion in the parking lot meant more to me than I could have realized.

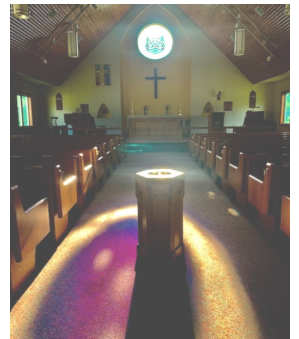
So why do I continue to financially support St. Aidan's even though our doors are physically closed? When our church burned in 2006 we repeatedly heard—"Our church is not a building, our church is the people." Now our physical building has been closed and will continue to be closed as the coronavirus makes its way through Wisconsin. So, is St. Aidan's the physical building or is it the people?

We have taken great pride in being a "family" church. If we indeed are a family, why would we abandon our family during difficult times? Why would we stop being St. Aidan's during the most difficult time we might ever encounter? There are so many people working so hard to keep St. Aidan's going. We have people checking the building and keeping the facility functional. We have people working each week to give us the music and recorded Morning Prayer. We have people organizing the Driveway Service. We have children Zooming Sunday School each Sunday and praying for grandparents they haven't seen and health care workers they may never know.

Each of those things is twice as difficult during this time, but still we have people stepping up so that we have the tiniest semblance of "normal" for St. Aidan's family.

As we begin a new chapter in St. Aidan's history let's try to remember who we are, and who we want to be when we are finally able to regather in our physical space.

Linda Weber



## Warm Winter Ministry

St. Aidan's is gathering hats, scarves, mittens, and new socks to warm the bodies and souls of our neighbors -- Start knitting, crocheting, felting! A collection and distribution of warm winter wear will be announced soon!

Start your creative endeavors for our neighbors now!



Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "**Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.**"

I am very appreciative to everyone at St. Aidan's as we take that first step with Pastor

Esther. The Covid journey has been and will continue to be a long journey. Along that journey many decisions need to be made with the best interest of St. Aidan's at heart. With the decision to hire Pastor Esther as our part-time priest in charge, I feel I am overcoming decision *fatigue*. And what a great feeling that is! Join me in welcoming Pastor Esther to St. Aidan's community.

Regardless of what decisions need to be made, I have made it a practice to browse the Episcopal Church Foundation News or Smart Church Solutions websites for thoughts or conversation that are posted that might be relevant to St. Aidan's. Last week, Dr. Thom Rainer posted a blog, *Five Reasons Why 2021 Should Be a New Base Year for Your Church*. Obviously, 2021 caught my attention. Why would I be concerned about 2021 now? Isn't the present more concerning?

In the blog Dr. Rainer suggests that church leaders use 2021 as a new base year, a blank slate. In a post-quarantine era, comparisons with previous years are like apples-to-oranges. How can we compare anything in the church year, our community outreach, church events, Christian formation, or St. Aidan's faith community to 2020? Everything changed in 2020. We will not be returning to a new normal. It will be a complete restart, establishing a new base, creating a new reality. The way we "do church" will lead St. Aidan's forward. Dr. Rainer states the year 2020 will "be a marker that includes sickness, death, and dismal economic realities. But it will also be a marker for new opportunities. You are about to see God do incredible work in thousands of churches in 2021". Although we may not be able to vision the 'staircase,' I'd like to grasp and reflect on Dr. Rainer's thoughts – 2021 is close at hand.

And as we continue to grow our faith community, I want to remember these words:

*Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. Colossians 4:6.*

Blessings,  
Donna Dinco

The mosque is too far from home,  
so let's do this  
Let's make a weeping child laugh.

-Nida Fazli, poet (12 Oct 1938-2016)

Hello All,

In this time of isolation and separation, I'm drawn back to when the Diocese did a Virtual Choir earlier this year -- the resulting combination of voices from all over the Diocese was wonderful.

Prep for that effort introduced me to **David Wesley** who does virtual choirs on a BIG scale. I recommend his music on YouTube. Inspiring!

He reminds me of Bobby McFerrin -- He does lots of things with his voice and combines tracks into neat music.

He reminds me of The Pentatonics -- lots of base and rhythm.

He reminds me of what Dee Kaker does for our church -- contemporary music.

He does lots of traditional "church" music.

He features himself as well as up to 300+ people from all over the world - it unites us all.

He features voices and instrumentals and sign language.

He provides Tips & Tricks for singing and technology - to make his stuff and us better.

His daytime job is being an ER nurse in a Toronto hospital, but music is his passion.

He has three kids (one recent). Neat guy!

Check him out -**David Wesley**.

It's refreshing! And maybe we can do something like what he does.

Brace yourselves St. Aidan's!

Here we come!

Thanks be to God.

Bruce Pollock



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

### Wardens

Donna Dinco

Sandy Koeller

### Vestry

Pat Gardner

Micki Hoffmann

Brian Schrunck

Gary Stage

### 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



**Phyllis Paquette** coordinates the prayer chain for St. Aidan's. If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call Phyllis at 262-397-8549 or the church office.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Addison Mae Schrunck  
Mike Weber
- 3 Pat & Ron Schnorenberg
- 5 Bert Mendoza
- 9 Liz & Rick Goldberg
- 10 Lacy Marie Stage  
Jenna Rose Stage
- 14 Michael Schmidt
- 16 Zacharie Davis
- 18 Lynn Molenda
- 19 Nathaniel Schrunck
- 20 Mary Barnes
- 21 John Kay  
Eileen Mozinski-Schmidt
- 26 Cameron Wetzel
- 27 Phyllis & Jerry Paquette
- 28 Ann & Eric Marsh-Meigs



**Advent begins November 29!**



# CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

**St. Aidan's Episcopal Church**  
**Prepaid Curbside Pickup at church**

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**  
**10 am -1 pm**

Mixed cookies 1 lb. \$8.00  
Decorated sugar cookies  
Baker's dozen \$12

**Prepaid orders only**

**Order by December 1**

To order call Linda

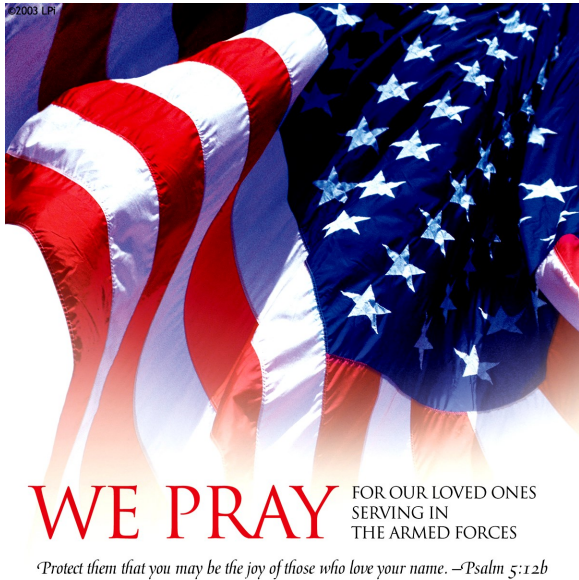
262 442 3364

Pay by check or credit card

St. Aidan's ECW  
670 E. Monroe  
Hartford WI 53027



Veterans Day  
Wednesday, November 11



*When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always.*

-Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948)



We are so grateful to everyone who supported our organization as we transitioned our Fiesta Latina fundraiser to Fiesta Week!

With sponsorships, restaurant donations, raffle ticket sales, and additional donations -- we raised a total of just over **\$37,000!**

These funds will help us continue to provide our important education and literacy programs for the local Latino community, as well as help build our "Dream to Succeed" college scholarship fund!

## Alice's Restaurant



It's supposed to freeze. I just brought in the last of the house plants and locked up the chickens for the night. I'm afraid I didn't get everything done outside this fall that I intended. Mother Nature will just have to take care of those things this year, and I will try to do better next year. If the road to hell is paved with good intentions, as my mother used to remind me, then I am well and truly on the path.

However, I did enjoy all the glorious colors this Fall, and I reveled in the windy days and the clatter of leaves on the road. I watched the trees fill up with blackbirds and listened to them argue about the migration route. Blackbirds love to argue. There was an eight-point buck nibbling on my herb pot the other morning until Buster the Dog noticed and warned him off. I guess I have just been too busy to do the weeding and the window washing, but the wind and the blackbirds won't wait, and the windows will.

This is the season for something warm and spicy and served with ice cream on the side!

### Pumpkin Custard with Streusel

Preheat oven -- 350\*

#### Custard

1 (15oz) can pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)  
1 C. sugar  
3 eggs  
2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 t. salt  
2 t. vanilla  
2/3 C. cream or evaporated milk

Stir together until well mixed and pour into a casserole or pie pan. Put in the oven for 20 minutes, then add streusel on top and finish baking another 25 minutes.

#### Streusel

1 C. oats  
3/4 C. flour  
1/2 C. brown sugar  
1 t. pumpkin pie spice  
2/3 C. butter melted

Mix together until crumbly

And just in case you don't have **pumpkin pie spice** on hand:

2 T. cinnamon  
2 t. nutmeg  
1/2 t. ginger  
1/2 t. cloves

**Alice Pollock**

# Homeless Jesus



[Episcopal News Service] St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Bay Village, Ohio, a western suburb of Cleveland, welcomed the opportunity to display a sculpture known as "Homeless Jesus" on its property for seven weeks this fall because the congregation thought it would spark conversations about how society treats and cares for the marginalized.

Did it ever.

On Oct. 12, minutes after the sculpture was installed facing a city park's well-traveled pathway, the Rev. Alex Martin received a visit from a police officer inquiring about the sculpture: Authorities had received a call alerting them that someone was sleeping on a bench – mistaking the sculpture for a real person.

"Bay Village is a small tight-knit community where people genuinely care about each other," Martin said in an interview with Episcopal News Service. "I have every reason to believe that the call was made out of genuine concern and compassion."

The officer simply inspected the sculpture and its plaque and then chatted with Martin about it, but since then, the story has been picked up by news outlets in the Cleveland area and beyond, including Vice News and CNN. Much of the coverage so far has focused on the decision to call police, but Martin said the purpose of the sculpture is a broader one.

"The goal of the statue, the sculpture there, is to not only raise awareness about homelessness and extreme poverty but also to remind us that we are all created in God's image and we have a Christian obligation to stand with the outcast and marginalized," said Martin, who has served St. Barnabas as priest-in-charge for two years.

**ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

COMMUNITY SHARING MAKES A  
**BRIGHTER CHRISTMAS!**



**HARTFORD CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE** 

Our 35th Year is Dedicated to Dr. Jim Algiers

?s  
 Like us on Facebook

We are the Charity of the Month for November at Hartford Piggly Wiggly!

**IN NEED OF HELP THIS CHRISTMAS?**  
FORMS AVAILABLE AT HARTFORD REC CENTER  
**OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 4 | MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM TO 4PM**

**ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS & TIMES BY APPOINTMENT:**  
FORMS MUST BE RETURNED WITH PROOF OF RESIDENCY IN PERSON  
TO A COMMITTEE MEMBER AT THE HARTFORD REC CENTER (125 N. RURAL STREET)  
*Early Online Pre-registration required: <https://bit.ly/2Hymurz>*

<b>OCTOBER 19</b>	<b>OCTOBER 27</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 4</b>
<b>3 TO 7PM</b>	<b>1 TO 6PM</b>	<b>3 TO 7PM</b>

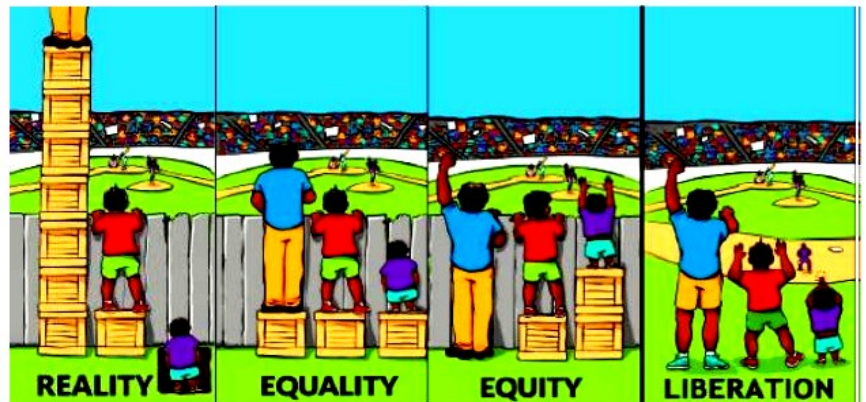
\* APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 4, 2020.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOU AND OUR VOLUNTEERS, ONLY 1 FAMILY MEMBER WILL BE PERMITTED AT APPLICATION DROP OFF, AND PLEASE BE PREPARED TO WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES.

(Due To Covid-19 There is NO Giving Tree, Just Gift Cards Please)  
LOCATIONS TO DROP OFF GIFT CARDS BY DECEMBER 1ST INCLUDE:  
**SCOOP DEVILLE | FORTE BANK | HARTFORD CLEANERS**

MONETARY DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO  
**HARTFORD CHRISTMAS PROJECT**  
C/O FORTE BANK  
116 W SUMNER ST | HARTFORD, WI 53027

**St. Aidan's has always generously supported the Hartford Christmas Committee!**



**STAG & STAFF**