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

CORONAVIRUS What you need to know

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Washington, Ozaukee and Dodge counties, it's more important than ever we take steps to keep ourselves safe as we return to work, re-open schools, events/shops/ activities, etc. When we return to worship, if you are concerned about attending, you should continue to review and assess your own health risk. The following guidelines from the CDC may help:

If you have any symptoms, such as a dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or in the past two weeks have had exposure to anyone diagnosed with COVID -19, stay home.

Suggestion - safer with St. Aidan's online options. If you are sick, stay home.

Suggestion - safer with St. Aidan's online options. If you are part of the population *most vulnerable*,

that includes those over 65 and/or those with heart or lung disease, diabetes, pregnancy, or have compromised immune systems, stay home.

Suggestion - safer with St. Aidan's online options Consult with your health care provider.

A Risk Assessment Dashboard is one of the resources the Diocese of Milwaukee is following as it continue to assess the re-gathering and re-opening of churches in the Diocese. You can find it at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1uv-7Dx4w1BDQSACf827iWCbflzMSirV2NFiDYosQwD8/ edit#gid=872564247

Choose Washington County for our risk assessment. If the number is highlighted in red, we cannot re-open.

For information on the color coding system go to https://www.diomil.org/resources/covid-19-preventionand-preparedness/ and link to August 13, 2020 FAQ update. Ron Schnorenberg and Mike Weber cleaning the garage - masked and social distanced. Great work! THANKS!



SEPTEMBER 2020

Fall means Worship Center!

VOLUME XXV NUMBER 9

Although this will be a fall like no other, the teachers have been mak-

ing plans for our Worship Center kids, age 3 through 3rd grade. We will be virtual, and the schedule will remain the same as last spring, but the format has changed.

Worship Center will take place after Morning Prayer when coffee hour begins. We will immediately break off into a separate room for class. Each week we'll join in a different activity -- Music Sunday, Story Sunday, and Craft Sunday, and Fr. Lars' Sunday!

In order to connect with the children, a box will be set up outside the front doors of church. Activity and craft items will be put into labeled envelopes in the box. Families can stop by church to pick these up each week.

We are still finalizing plans, and parents will be keep informed as we progress on this new journey. If any parishioners have ideas or questions about our virtual Sunday School, please contact **Megan Fairchild Wetzel** or **Linda Weber**. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to help our children grow in their faith during this difficult time.



The Bishop's Committee continues to focus discussions and meetings on

- what will worship look like?
 - how are pastoral care needs being met? and
 - how are financial resources being managed without a plate offering?

Some of our most recent responses to these focus questions are:

- St. Aidan's Re-gathering/Re-opening plan was approved by the diocese on August 10. The diocesan COVID-19 link is updated often (https://www.diomil.org/resources/covid-19-prevention-and-preparedness/). In addition to Fr. Lars' ZOOM attendance at diocesan and clergy meetings, we are able to keep our plan up-todate and ready to implement when active cases in Washington county to go down.
- I review or attend webinars through Smart Church Solutions as I am curious about the national response. Two recent posts: *Fishing Differently* by Sidney Williams; *New Ways of Engagement* by Meredith McNabb.
- Brian Schrunk does a weekly monitoring of all systems, following CDC guidelines for re-opening; such as running all water faucets for 30 minutes and flushing toilets, so water does not stagnate; checking and operating heating and air conditioning systems to ensure proper equipment operation; checking the stove and all emergency exit signs and lighting for proper operation, to name a few. Routine cleaning, sanitizing and shampooing the carpets has also been done. Thank you, Brian and your family for your time!
- Support from the worship committee to plan and provide online, pre-recorded Sunday worship.
- Rotation of lay persons to read the lessons. Check weekly e-blasts if you are interested.
- Application for a diocesan grant to purchase updated recording and sound equipment.
- Website update ready to launch later this month. Thanks to Mike Weber, Fr. Lars, Gary Stage, and Brian Schrunk.
- Patio visits with Fr. Lars and scheduled requests for home communion and/or driveway visits. Weekly calls or email correspondence from BC members.
- St. Aidan's appreciates your continued gift of attending:
 - *Isn't it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate*? (Francis Chan). As our online worship presence continues, your commitment to attending strengthens our faith community. Also, consider joining *Facebook* live on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for Compline or Zoom on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. for a small group Morning Prayer.
 - *The view is great, admissions free, won't you come share my porch with me?* (Anonymous). As you are able, sign up for a patio visit with Fr. Lars it is quite nice to visit outside; or request home communion and an outdoor visit.
 - *Coffee and friends make the perfect blend* (SwiggyQuotes.com). *Zoom* coffee hour can provide lively conversation and another way to connect with St. Aidan's.

I also stay connected through email chat with different groups of friends/family. This week a friend shared some words of wisdom from *Winnie the Pooh*. I often used children's literature with both middle school and adult students, to highlight the obvious, like children do.

May we all be Piglet to someone who needs us:

"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh. There was a pause. "Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet. "No," said Pooh after a bit. "No, I don't think I do." "That's okay," said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend. "What are you doing?" asked Pooh. "Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either. "But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh." And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs -- he thought that his best friend had never been more right."

A.A. Milne

Continue to stay safe and well. Keep current through weekly e –blasts for new online worship services and reopening guidelines, and send us your feedback or questions.

Blessings, Donna Dinco

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The monastic tradition in Christianity has been one of the greatest gifts to the church and the world. For centuries, monasteries functioned as centers of education, hospitality, and healthcare, as well as providing goods from the work of the monks and nuns. Indeed, the university and the hospital have their roots in the monastery.

Our Christian spirituality has been shaped by monasticism as well, through the writings of confessors and mystics such as Theresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Julian of Norwich, and through our very form of worship. The forms of Morning and Evening Prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer* were adapted from the traditional seven monastic offices to provide an opportunity for all Christians, both lay and ordained, to join in the prayers of the church. Our roots are in the monastery - particularly in the Benedictine tradition.

St Benedict, who was born in AD 480 in central Italy, is widely considered the father of monasticism. He also had a twin sister named Scholastica who did for women's monasticism much of what Benedict did for men's, and, according to tradition, exceeded him in piety and holiness.

Benedict founded several monastic communities. In his experiences as abbot, he developed and wrote down a rule of life to order life together in the monastery. Known as the *Rule of St Benedict*, the Rule is exemplary for its spiritual insight and its restraint. In contrast to other sets of guidelines, Benedict's rule is suffused with gentleness and grace. This was, no doubt, the result of his life-long experiences in ministry. In fact, we have preserved for us another rule, presumed to also be written by Benedict, known as the *Rule of the Master* which, as you might guess from the title, is significantly harsher, with penalties for all kinds of infractions.

The chapters are very short, most of them just a handful of lines. The whole of the *Rule of Benedict* is summed up in Chapter 72, titled "The Good Zeal." Benedict writes, "prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ."

There are any number of things in this life to be zealous about. There are all kinds of things that are fun and interesting, and an unending list of demands on one's time, energy, and attention. Some are lifegiving, some are not -- families, jobs, hobbies, etc.

Benedict reminds us to "Prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ."

Most mornings, I would much rather sleep, or, if I have to be awake, drink coffee, than take time in pray-

er -- but Benedict reminds me to prefer nothing whatsoever to Christ. Most evenings, I would simply like to eat dinner and relax, but Benedict reminds me to prefer *nothing* whatsoever to Christ.

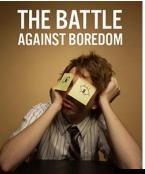
But what about my busy life? As counter-intuitive as this may sound, preferring Christ first, and most, is not a dereliction of our other duties, but the only way I can fulfill them as a Christian. It is only by loving Christ

first, and best, that I will be able to love my wife, my children, and my neighbor well at all.

I pray that we would all be filled with the Good Zeal, eager to love and serve Christ above all things.

Blessings on all of you, **Fr. Lars**





CONTINUES... AND WE HAVE THE ANSWER!



Pick a project around St. Aidan's. Work by yourself or bring a masked friend. Contact Donna Dinco or Linda Weber with questions.

Music for Troubled Times – Pat Gardner



Dear Ones,

I ordered art gum erasers so I could finally erase all the notes I made in the music for Jubilate Chorale's Covid-cancelled Spring 2020 concert and European tour. John, Charles, and Beorn were in the canoe on a beautiful Friday morning. I was seated in a red folding chair by the lakeside. As I was cleaning up the scores, I got a wonderful opportunity to sing through the beautiful pieces one last time. Two songs really touched my heart: "Even When He is Silent" by Norwegian Kim André Arnesen and "Abendgebet" by Jacob Beranek.

Arnesen's text was found after World War II written on a wall in a concentration camp. This was performed in Trondheim's Nidaros Cathedral by the St. Olaf Choir at the "Christmas in Norway" concert in 2013. The text:

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when He is silent.

You can find a beautiful presentation of it on YouTube: St. Olaf Choir - "Even When He Is Silent" - Kim André Arnesen

Beranek's text was chosen by the British men's consort, The Gesualdo Six, as one of several for composers to select for a competition. Beranek won. Lutheran theologian and pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this Abendgebet (evening prayer) in prison just months before his execution. The Jubilate Chorale commissioned Beranek to create a version for our men's and women's voices. He is still a music composition undergrad at Vanderbilt University. This was his second commission from the Jubilate Chorale.

Here are Jacob's program notes and his translation.

"...I wanted to conclude my setting of the prayer in a manner that represented Bonhoeffer's own perspective on death and life. It occurred to me that a powerful yet peaceful "Amen" was necessary to complete this image, and the idea struck me one day to set the "Amen" to the tune of the Lutheran chorale Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"). For me, this allusion would perfectly represent Bonhoeffer's hope amidst death and strength amidst evil. It was not until later that day that I happened to learn the circumstances preceding Bonhoeffer's death: the day before his execution, Bonhoeffer conducted his final Sunday service inside the Flossenbürg concentration camp. As the Gestapo entered to escort him to his "trial," Bonhoeffer concluded the service by leading the congregation in one last hymn: Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott."

Lord, my God I thank you that you have brought this day to a close; I thank you that you have allowed my body and soul to come to rest. Your hand was over me and has protected and preserved me. Forgive all the lack of faith and all the injustice of this day, And help me to forgive all who have done injustice towards me. Allow me in peace to sleep beneath your protection, And defend me from the spiritual crises of darkness. I commend to you all that is mine, I commend to you this house, I commend to you my body and soul. God, your holy name be praised.

The performance by the Gesualdo Six is on Jacob Beranek's website. Scroll down to the audio files for the complete version:

https://www.beranekmusic.com/listen.html

Peace to all of you, **Pat Gardner**

Troubled times do call for troubled songs, songs that unsettle our souls and our spirits unapologetically.

STAG & STAFF





Fr. John Groff remembers the date: December 7, 1967.

It happened on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

"In the wee hours of the morning I was meditating and there was a deep peace, a deep inner knowing, a deep tranquility," Fr. John said. "The moments of great bliss became personified in the light. I knew this instantly without knowing how I knew. The light was the manifestation of the Christ. That was in the midst of that meditation. It made changes in my life beyond anything I might have imagined, and it was instantaneous."

Fr. John, now 81 years old and a member of St. Aidan's, first went to Okinawa in 1959 as a teenager who had joined the U.S. Army. He walked down an unpaved street one day and was drawn to a house "that was different," where he met a Zen Buddhist master named Takameni.

"A strong wind would have blown him away," Fr. John recalled. "He was very genuine. I would use the word *wise*. You would ask the Roshi questions. Any questions I or any other American student would ask Takameni, the answer was always the same. He said in working with Americans these were the only two words of English you needed, "Just sit." The philosophy was that the deepest possible answers to any questions you might be posing were in here [pointing to the heart]."

Fr. John's spiritual awakening as a young man led to a long career in the ministry, first as a parish priest in Alabama and later as the director of a meditation retreat center located in Guntersville, Alabama.

He moved to Wisconsin in 2002 to be closer to his daughter and continued his ministry as a supply priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. "It was a wonderful way of getting to know the diocese of Milwaukee," Father John said. "After that initial phase of being a billiard ball all over the place, I wound up spending two and a half years as the interim priest of St. Francis in Menomonee Falls. I spent some time at St. Anskar's, Hartland, and as an interim priest at St. Matthias Waukesha. I really am retired now.

"What I continue to do out of my office is spiritual direction, which in my case is I teach people to meditate."

He has three published books, including *The Smell* of *Incense, Sound of Silence.* He writes about

mysticism in many forms, including in scripture and contemplation, in daily life, and in love.

Fr. John has dealt with health issues in the past year, including a heart surgery performed at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center in early August. An implanted cardiac defibrillator was hooked up to his heart; and he said his energy remains lower than normal. He is considering whether to have further surgery recommended by his doctors.

"I'm not certain," Fr. John said. "There's part of me that says you've subjected this body to enough. Let things unfold as they are."

Fr. John lived near the Milwaukee River in Mequon when he came to Wisconsin and worshiped at St. Simon the Fisherman in Port Washington. But when he moved to Hartford a year ago he began to attend St. Aidan's, a church he first encountered at a parish meeting in 2003.

He understands the challenges a church faces and knows it is even more difficult to keep a ministry active during a pandemic, when services are limited to being online and members are separated from weekly contact that is so vital. "When we discover what the new normal is, we will learn the pluses and minuses of all this melodrama," Fr. John said. "We have to expect changes when things return to normal. Pain will give way to joy."

Fr. John is a widower and has two children, two

grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren. His son, John W. III, lives in Washington state with his wife, Renea, and daughter Jill lives in the Town of Erin with her husband, Dan Worman, an emergency room doctor at Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa.

Fr. John has a companion in his 18-year-old domestic dove, Satori, a Japanese name that means "spiritually awake."

"spiritually awake." "I'm very comfortable being a reclusive hermit monk," he said.



Charles Gardner Senior Staff Writer

I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity. -Gilda Radner -actress and comedian (1946-1989)

Kindness

Before you know what kindness really is you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth. What you held in your hand, what you counted and carefully saved, all this must go so you know how desolate the landscape can be between the regions of kindness. How you ride and ride thinking the bus will never stop, the passengers eating maize and chicken will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho lies dead by the side of the road. You must see how this could be you, how he too was someone who journeyed through the night with plans and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,

you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.

You must wake up with sorrow.

You must speak to it till your voice

catches the thread of all sorrows

and you see the size of the cloth.

Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore, only kindness that ties your shoes

and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,

only kindness that raises its head

from the crowd of the world to say

It is I you have been looking for,

and then goes with you everywhere

like a shadow or a friend.

Naomi Shihab Nye [1952-], A Palestinian-American poet

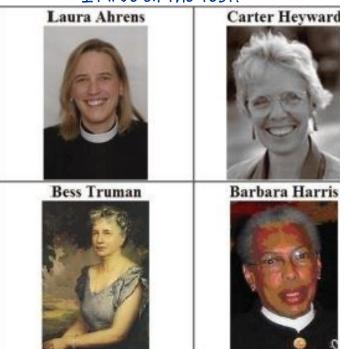






Famous Episcopalian Women --

Do you know them? Find out! It'll be on the test!



STAG & STAFF



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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.



The following is from a friend --

Speaking of putting ourselves in other people's shoes, I want to recommend a new book, due September 15. I'm reading the manuscript and learning a lot:

"Black Fatigue: How Racism Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit," by Mary-Frances Winters.

It explores the experience of "living in the U.S. while black." But it was written for white folks like me who have yet to understand how utterly grinding life is for those who have lived for generations under racism's heel.

As the author says, "I ask white people to read this book not only to be educated on the history of racism but to also be motivated to become an antiracist, an ally and a power broker for systemic change."

This is a book that will help white people aid and abet the political and cultural change our collective future depends upon. At <u>https://tinyurl.com/</u> <u>yy3morx3</u> see the book on Amazon. At <u>https:// tinyurl.com/yychhka3</u> see it at IndieBound. And at <u>https://tinyurl.com/y39vneez</u> you can get a free downloadable excerpt. Thanks!

There is wisdom in turning as often as possible from the familiar to the unfamiliar: it keeps the mind nimble, it kills prejudice, it fosters humor. -George Santayana, philosopher (1863-1952)

"I don't wear this mask out of fear to keep myself safe, I wear it out of love to keep others safe because if I am infected, this mask will help prevent spread of the virus. It's one way I love my neighbor."

~Bishop Steven A. Miller





Well here it is, the season that I usually spend browsing the school supply aisles for the fresh notebooks, pens, colored pencils

and other things that herald a new year of success and adventure. Retired school teachers can still hear the siren call of the classroom, but this year will be another kind of adventure for all of us. On my refrigerator there hangs an aging slip of paper. I may have referred to it before:

"The difference between adversity and adventure is attitude."

It's a simple statement but it has proved useful through some difficult times. There is Covid19, and for many there is the question of where school will be this fall. Our personal adventure of the moment is Bruce recovering from a fall, the result of an excited dog and a moment of distraction. He is getting better, and I am developing my patience, if not my nursing skills. We have had an abundance of good wishes, and now that the garden is coming in we have also an abundance of fresh vegetables. This brings me to the recipe for today but not without a story. We first had ratatouille when visiting a German family. It was served in a walled garden, overgrown with trees and vines. We ate under a latticework sunshade at a long table. Our hostess brought out a huge dish full of savory steaming vegetables and chunks of sausages followed by another dish of crisply roasted potatoes. We feasted that afternoon with good conversation, German on one side and English on the other. We laughed and found common ground over a good meal. It was an adventure. We still don't speak German, but the friendship has continued for more than 20 years anyway. So here is a version of that meal. I learned later the sausages were only added to please some of the husbands. Better without, my friend Ursula would say.

Summer Ratatouille

Chop the vegetables into good sized pieces into a big pan Tomatoes Onions Green, red, yellow sweet pepper Whole cloves of garlic (no need to peel) Carrots Celerv Eggplant Mushrooms Beets Green beans You get the idea? Anything that's ripe in the garden or looks good at the grocery store mix with. Olive oil Vinegar (I like balsamic) Oregano Thyme Basil Rosemary Salt and pepper

Roast in the oven at 350*until the vegetables are tender crisp or longer if you prefer them soft. Stir once or twice. Serve over baked potatoes or cut up the potatoes to cook with the other vegetables. Sausages optional!

Alice Pollock



ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF



CASA GUADALUPE EDUCATION CENTER, INC

Hello Casa Guadalupe friends and supporters!

Fiesta Week raffle tickets are now available!!

As part of our fundraising efforts this year, our goal is to sell 800 raffle tickets by September 27th! Proceeds will go toward our education programs, including our Dream to Succeed scholarship fund for Latino high school students/scholarship recipients going to college after graduation. Many will be first generation college students!

\$5 for one \$20 for five (Cash only)

You could win a private dinner for 10 at The Norbert in West Bend (valued at \$1000) and so much more! View our growing list of prizes here: http://www.casaguadalupeonline.org/events/ FiestaLatina.cfm

Tickets can be purchased at Faith & Giggles in Hartford, or Casa Guadalupe, , Rally Time Sports Bar & Grill, BLONDIEPOP bar, and River Shores Chiropractic in West Bend.

Last day to buy tickets is Sunday, Sept 27th at 8pm! Winners will be drawn during Fiesta Week from Sept 28th - Oct 3rd.



If you would like to buy tickets at Casa, please call 262-306-2900 or email me to schedule a time. If you want to sell tickets to help us reach our goal, please call or email.



SEPTEMBER 2020

THE STAG & STAFF

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 670 E. Monroe Avenue Hartford, WI 53027 www.staidans-hartford.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Like Jesus we belong to the world living not for ourselves but for others. -St. Teresa of Kolkata

ST. AIDAN'S NEWSLEPPTER **SETEMBER 2020** Service: Sunday 9:30 am

Church bulletin board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

000 Don't let worry kill you off let the Church help.

21

200000

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

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For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

COGD

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

coolow.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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