



ST. AIDAN'S STAG & STAFF

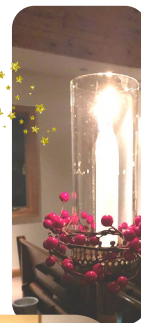
St. Aidan's mission: To grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.

JANUARY 2021

VOLUME XXVI NUMBER 1



The wise still seek him!



Lighting our way on the darkest night



THE GREAT CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE!



What a sale! Even in the midst of the first winter snow our cookie sale was a huge success!

Many thanks to our decorators, **Alice Pollock, Donna Dinco, Amanda Mercado, Mary Moran, Loretta Mendoza, Linda Weber** and her helper elves, Laurie and Rhonda.

A huge thank you to the cookie bakers of St. Aidan's. You outdid yourselves! We had orders for 99 boxes of mixed cookies. We were able to sell 115 boxes and still had cookies to donate to:



Aurora Clinic in Slinger.



Hartford Square residents.

The Mendoza's have organized holiday dinners for those who will be alone.



Hartford fire department
Hartford police department.

The Great Christmas Cookie Sale made a profit over \$2000 for the Episcopal Church Women of St. Aidan's. As usual, the ECW will allocate their monies for outreach and kitchen supplies.

Too much time alone at a tables resulted in some decorators' limericks!

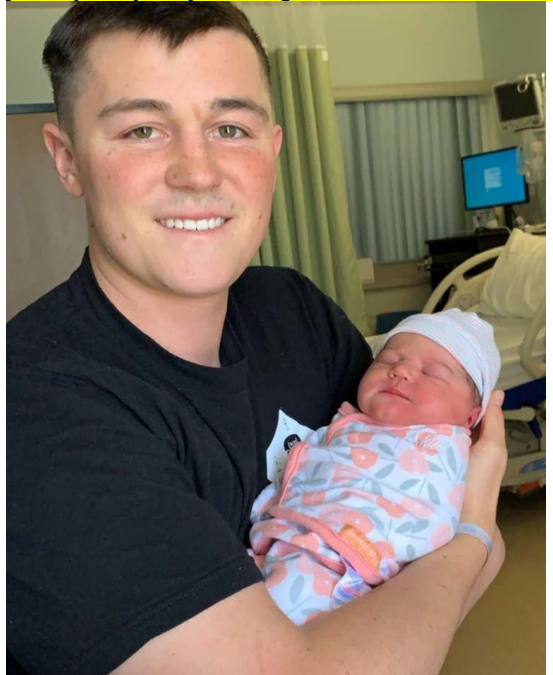
*There once were some ladies from
St. Aidan's
Who loved to do Christmas "bakin".
There were orders galore,
But they just wanted more
So they baked their way into heaven!*




*There once was a church called St. Aidan,
And the ladies there loved to do bakin'.
They did cookies galore.
Stacked from ceiling to floor.
And soon they'll be home and be aching'!*

Our heartfelt thanks to **Linda Weber** -- who baked, made icing, set up schedules, took orders, decorated, and made all this possible -- with uncommon Grace!





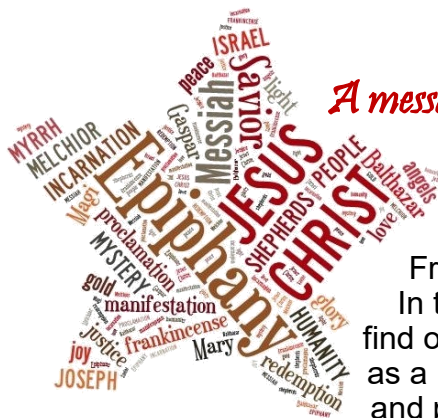
Virginia and Dave Komp are great-grandparents! Caroline Margaret Komp was born to Mitchel and his ly on the day before Thanks-ovember 25, 2020. She was 9 Palms Military Base where s finishing his tour in the Ma-e family will move back to in in December. Mitchel is of Leann and Jeff Komp.




More good news of a home-coming: **Ron Schnorenberg** reports that his wife, **Pat**, is coming home from assisted living. Pat and Ron thank everyone for the prayers, thought, and cards these past nine months!

Send to: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

JANUARY 2021



A message from the Pastor --



Friends in Christ,
In this new year, we continue to find ourselves making adjustments as a result of COVID-19 conditions and precautions. As members of the St. Aidan's church community, like so many other faith communities, we are adjusting our patterns for meeting, serving each other, and worshiping in ways that we never imagined. Now as we emerge from the past year and we begin to consider just how we will be a church in 2021, let us consider how our experiences have given us new eyes with which to see the world around us. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he prays that members of the young church community will be given the spirit of wisdom and revelation as each person comes to know Jesus. Paul further prays that "with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you." Clearly, learning to perceive differently was as much of a challenge for the early Christians as it is for us today.

We enter this new year called to God's purposes for our lives and in the life of this church community. Perhaps a striking realization will come upon us as we look in hope to the season of Epiphany, and we recognize the significance of the events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The visit by the magi to the child Jesus, the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the miracle at the wedding in Cana might just stir in us a sense of wonder and a desire to respond in love that transcends days on the calendar and extends beyond church tradition. Opening the eyes of our hearts to the timeless significance of the incarnation offers us a new perspective on a new year in which all things are possible through God.

The St. Aidan's church community is blessed with people of all ages who are wise and faithful. In the faces of one another and in our experiences with people in our community, let us always see the face of Jesus. With a perspective that is informed by our renewed awareness of the dignity of human nature and the vulnerability of all creation, 2021 can become for us a year of recognizing the power of a loving God in the gift of those around us. Our call is to celebrate the revelation of God with rejoicing!

You remain in my prayers,
Esther +



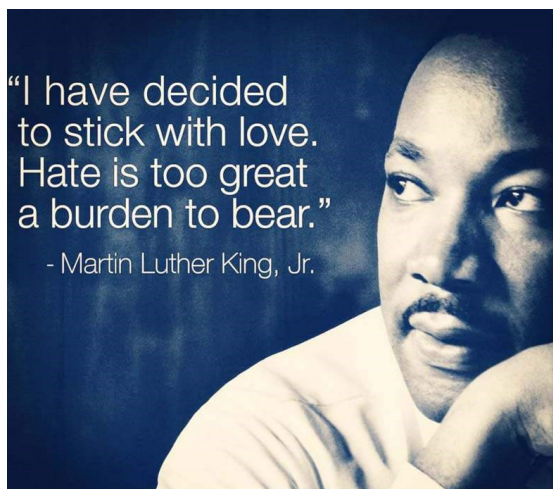


Al Kay
and
Lara Nation



Men's Breakfast in December. Who says you need deer camp to get frozen - not **Al, Brian, Jerry, or Charles!** **Bruce**, too! Someone had to take the picture. Can't wait 'til January!

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 2!



"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

**We honor
Martin Luther King, Jr.
January 18, 2020**

Weather Cancellation Information

If the weather outside is frightful, check church service cancellations:

Television

FOX 6
TMJ 4

Radio

The Lake FM
94.5
WTMJ AM 620
WTKM AM 1540
& FM 104.9

Al Kay likes to tell a good joke.

Have you heard the one about the church in Zillah, Washington? According to Al, there really is a "Church of God, Zillah. You don't have to make this stuff up," Al said.

Al, age 83, and his wife, 79-year-old Lara Nation, are hardly the retiring type. They have been married 25 years and traveled all over the country, while serving as volunteers at national parks and wildlife sites from California to Texas to North Dakota. "Once we went out for three months and we were gone a year," Al said. "But we had a rule we would only stay three or four months at most in one place. There's a reason for that. Either you feel you run the park or they feel they run you."

Al said the couple's national park adventures – at least as workers – are behind them. But he remains active in his career in interior design. Since graduating from (now) Virginia Commonwealth University in the early 1960's, he has worked on residential and commercial design projects, even a nature park in Maryland. Al deflects credit for making someone's kitchen or living room sparkle.

"The worst thing you can tell me is 'You did a good job on that house,'" he said. "You shouldn't even know I was there. It's getting out of people what they want." He said his design work can be as simple as an ashtray or involve an entire house plan. "When you've got it just perfect, you have to take something out," he said. "It has to be alive."

Al and Lara are living in a condo in West Bend but recently bought a house in Wisconsin Rapids. It has 700 square feet on one floor and a similar-size basement, with a carport and garage. "It's turning into something," he said. "And everything important is within a mile – the Taco John's, the hospital."

Lara met Al at an Episcopal church in Chehalis, Washington, after she read the scripture lessons on an Easter Sunday. She grew up in eastern Washington after moving from Terre Haute, Indiana. Lara graduated from Washington State University and was a social worker for the state of Washington. She also spent a year in Australia and a year in England.

Al said he is longing for the day when the couple can worship again at St. Aidan's. "I can't do the online," he said. "It's not the mechanics of it. There are things the diocese could have done to rectify the lack of community. I know they could have."

Al is determined not to slow down. He still rides a motorcycle, a hobby he has long enjoyed. He played lacrosse in high school in Maryland back in the 1950's but said he was too skinny to play football. "You get hurt doing that stuff," he said.

He's happy now to keep the home fires burning. "We've been married 25 years and redone or bought six 'perfect' retirement homes," Al said. "Nothing is perfect."

Charles Gardner
Senior Staff Writer



St. Aidan's January Reader Schedule

A note to the congregation: If you're an experienced Reader or have never read at a Service, **WE WANT YOU!** If you can read the Scripture Lessons and want to serve the congregation in this special way, **WE WANT YOU!** Ability to read and desire are the only qualifications. **We welcome those of any age who can and want to participate.** Please call Gail Hefti [920-740-3997] or Micki Hoffmann [262-673-2903] to add your name to the list of St. Aidan's Readers.



DATE	READER	Morning Prayer Recorded	Eucharist Live
January			
3	Ann Marsh Meigs	X	
	Micki Hoffmann		X
10	Steve Schmidt	X	X
17	Brian Schrunk	X	X
24	Mike Weber	X	X
31	Alice Pollock	X	X

Readings can be found at: www.lectionarypage.net

If there are choices, Pastor Esther will contact the reader.

Readers who are recording: contact Scott Ekins prior to recording.

414-704-6186

staidanmusichtfd@gmail.com



Aidan's Angels

- ♦ **Linda Weber** -- organizer extraordinaire!
- ♦ **Scott Ekins, Pat Gardner, Mike Weber** -- Perfect blend of music and technology!
- ♦ **Donna Dinco** -- Keeping us all going in the right direction.
- ♦ **Pastor Esther** -- for stepping in and stepping up!

MAY YOUR COMING YEAR BE FILLED WITH
**MAGIC&DREAMS&
 GOOD MADNESS.**
 I HOPE **READ** **BOOKS**
 YOU SOME FINE
& KISS SOMEONE WHO THINKS YOU'RE
WONDERFUL,
 AND DON'T FORGET
 TO MAKE SOME **ART**
 (WRITE OR DRAW OR BUILD OR SING
 OR LIVE AS ONLY YOU CAN)
 AND SOMEWHERE IN THE
 I HOPE, **NEXT YEAR,**
YOU SURPRISE
YOURSELF.



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

How to reach us —

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Church Phone: 262-673-7273

The Rev. Esther Kramer

262-309-7661

estherkramer0806@gmail.com

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Wednesday & Friday mornings

Or by Appointment

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secretary@staidans-hartford.org

Scott Eakins, Organist

Mike Weber, Treasurer

Vestry Wardens

Donna Dinco

Sandy Koeller

Vestry Clerk

Linda Weber

Vestry

Pat Gardner

Micki Hoffmann

Brian Schunk

Gary Stage

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

or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call the church office.

Meet Aimee Hennings!

Aimee is the new Administrative Assistant for St. Aidan's. She lives in Hartford with her husband and three children.

Aimee grew up in Eau Claire and has a Geology degree from UW-Eau Claire and Idaho State University.

We are happy to welcome her to the St. Aidan's family!



You Can Get Everything You Want

**ALICE'S
RESTAURANT**

937-695-9808

('ceptin Alice)

We went to Parking Lot Church this morning. It's an unusual way to be together, parking in alternate spaces so most everyone can see Pastor Esther in the bay window, and then tuning in to the FM station or the Facebook page to listen or watch, rolling down the window and holding out a saucer to receive the host, honking the peace, and waving. It's not what we are used to. Occasionally we open a window and have a conversation with our neighbor on one side or the other, but as awkward as it may seem to us we are there, and we can see each other. The joy and the smiling eyes are the same, and we are still a congregation, and we still meet to worship.

I will be very happy when we can return to the building, but in the meantime we have a way to be together (more or less) and even with the vaccine coming sometime in the future we will still need to be careful of each other, doing our best to keep each other safe. It's not over, 'til it's over. My thanks go out to everyone who makes this possible, the Sunday service, the recorded services, the music, the Advent observations, the knowledge to record and make all these things available to me at any time. The special things coming up will all to help me remember what is important right now.

I seldom put in a recipe this month. We have so much going on and all those Christmas treats! We will be celebrating quietly this year by ourselves with a computer conversation with our families during the holidays, I hope. That will be enough this year.

Stay well. See you in church!

Alice Pollock



*Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee
Provisional Bishop
Designee
Diocese of Milwaukee*

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, a group of elected clergy and lay leaders, announced today that the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, current bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, is the designee for provision-

"I am delighted at the prospect of returning to ministry with the people of the Diocese of Milwaukee."

al bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. Bishop Lee will begin serving as the provisional bishop designee on April 1, 2021. The convention at which the

clergy and lay representatives of the diocese will vote on Bishop Lee's nomination will be held shortly thereafter, at a date to be determined but likely in June 2021. Bishop Lee will conclude his ministry as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago at the end of this month.

"On behalf of the Standing Committee, I'd like to express our enthusiasm and readiness to work with Bishop Jeff Lee in this season of our common life together. His love for the Diocese of Milwaukee is evident when you talk with him, and his roots here among us are deep," said the Rev. Scott Leannah, president of the Standing Committee. "His love for the gospel, dedication to the Church, and knowledge of congregational and diocesan ministry will be a blessing and gift for us during this time of transition and new life. We urge your prayerful support for Bishop Lee and his family as he concludes his ministry in the Diocese of Chicago. We ask you to do all you can to support him in the role of provisional bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee. He comes to us at a pivotal time in our shared life and we are grateful for his "yes"; we believe it was inspired by the Holy Spirit."

The Diocese of Milwaukee's current bishop, the Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, will retire on December 31 after a terminal sabbatical. As stated above, Bishop Lee will begin his ministry with the Diocese of Milwaukee on April 1. He will be working half-time for a two-year term.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee was elected as the twelfth bishop of the Diocese of Chicago in 2007 and was consecrated on February 2, 2008. Bishop Lee is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Nashotah

House Seminary and served as a curate, canon to the ordinary and church developer in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and as rector of churches in Wisconsin and Washington before being elected bishop. He and his wife, Lisa Rogers Lee, have two children, Katherine and Jonathan.



"I am delighted at the prospect of returning to ministry with the people of the

Diocese of Milwaukee. More than twenty years since our time at St. Christopher's, River Hills, Lisa and I still remember fondly the warm friendships and vital ministry we experienced in Wisconsin," said Bishop Lee. "I am honored that the Standing Committee has asked me to stand for election as bishop provisional, and all the people of the diocese will be in my prayers between now and when I hope to join you in April."

Between January 1 and March 31, two assisting bishops will support and advise the Standing Committee in their role as the Ecclesiastical Authority for the Diocese of Milwaukee. The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, bishop of Fond du Lac and provisional bishop of Eau Claire will be the assisting bishop January 1-February 15 and the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, retired, will be the assisting bishop February 16-March 31. They will meet with the Standing Committee monthly and will be available for advice and pastoral care on an as-needed basis.

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee comprises 49 congregations in the 18 counties of southern Wisconsin. To learn more, visit www.diomil.org



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5 Eric Wetzel
- 9 Mike Kaker
Lori Masset
Lance Schnorenberg
- 11 Megan Fairchild Wetzel
- 12 Gail & Scott Hefti
- 14 Michael Schmidt
Ron Schnorenberg
- 15 Don Martin
- 16 Sarah Martin
- 17 Janet Garbarek
Audrey Thomas



The Christmas Story

When you read this, the Advent season will be over, and we will have celebrated the birth of Jesus. However, today that is not where I am – I am still in the midst of the season and again this year browsing through *The Simple Blessings of Christmas*, by Mark Gilroy. I stopped on page 68, with this Christmas blessing:

Christmas teaches the importance of simple acts of kindness.

What is it about Christmas and giving? I have always loved the Christmas season – the busyness of baking and gift making, the devotion and reflection, and all the music from the fun, perky *Jingle Bell Rock* to the sacred, *O Holy Night*. In particular, I like to read a new Christmas novel or story each year, like this week's story in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, *Frozen Footsteps*, by Greg Borowski. Even though the themes, of love, kindness, compassion, reconnecting, childhood wonder, gratitude, and cherished memories abound with each story, it seems there is a new perspective with each new one.

Norman Vincent Peale reminds us of the story of a young Swedish girl living with an American family in New York City, helping them with household chores. She didn't have much money and knew she could not get them a nice Christmas gift – besides they already had so much. With the little money she had, she bought a gift for a baby, then decided to find a poor family with a baby. With help from a Salvation Army bell ringer, she was guided to a poorer part of town so she could deliver her gift. On Christmas morning she told the family what she had done in their name. Peale reveals the opportunities, big and small to show kindness and be blessed – the young girl for giving, the wealthy family for seeing others through new eyes, and the poor family for receiving an unexpected gift. The Reverend Andrew Greeley's, *Star Bright*, has another beautiful Christmas message that only Fr. Greeley could write. It's about a young Russian woman studying at Harvard and spending Christmas alone in a foreign country. How does she accept the commercialized American Christmas, the tree, food, and midnight mass when it isn't even Christmas in the Russian Orthodox calendar?

***St. Aidan's --
Do we have our own
Christmas story?***

With these stories in mind, I think of St. Aidan's. Do we have our own Christmas story? If so, it might begin with **Linda Weber's** 'What if' question. Since we could not have a Christmas Bazaar, what if we could sell Christmas cookies online? What would that look like? What would be the logistics? Could we fill the orders? Would we be successful? The answer to the question and the many hours of baking and decorating cookies, is yes, we can! We had orders for more cookies than we ever sold before.

Yes, St. Aidan's and friends of St. Aidan's, you out did yourselves! Your generosity and willingness to give of your time, talent, and resources to reach out to those who were *wanting* the traditions of Christmas in this COVID era are commendable. After filling all the orders, we had enough mixed cookies to fill extra boxes that were given to first responders at the fire station, staff and officers at the police station, health care workers at the Aurora Health Center, seniors at Hartford Square, and AA support groups. *A simple act of kindness* – they were all so grateful for the generosity of St. Aidan's. A St. Aidan's Christmas story? Last week we were 'light and presence' in the Hartford community.

When the Vestry sensed an urgency to re-connect and be the 'light and presence' in our own faith community, the work on "St. Aidan's Season of Light" began. The Mission Development grant provided the opportunity to take a measured, planned approach to filling a need of being connected. Thank you to **Pat Gardner** and **Scott Eakins** for coordinating and providing the wonderful music for the Taize Advent Services; to **Pastor Esther** for her reflections, and to all of you for viewing the online services.

Thank you to all who generated ideas, packed and delivered Advent boxes to each of our 59 households, and to Linda for coordinating the event. We hope this brought joy to you and your family and helped you connect to St. Aidan's, as Christmas promises a new beginning.

Thank you to all who decorated a luminary bag. Light from the luminarias on December 21st, the Winter Solstice, connects the fellowship of friends, family, and community. A special arrangement for a walk-in visitation to view decorations inside the church, give pause to reflect on the greatest Christmas Story and offer a prayer shows that together Christmas challenges can make our lives better.

St Aidan's, is *our* Christmas story about showing kindness, generosity, and compassion towards our faith community and beyond? Maybe because it is in the Christmas season that we are more aware, or maybe it is because the pandemic has heightened our awareness of the importance of connecting to our families, friends, and community, or maybe it is because we are aware of our mission "*to grow as a faith family so that everyone will experience God's love.*" Whatever the reason, I am grateful for all that you do and all that you are.

Blessings as together we begin 2021.

Donna Dinco, Senior Warden

JANUARY 2021

