



ST. AIDAN'S

SEPTEMBER 2025
VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 9

STAG&STAFF

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



First & Third Sundays —
Starts SEPTEMBER 7
All children welcome!

Make the Episcopal Church Your Church Home!

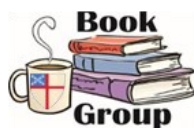
You are invited to attend the Adult Forums, following Sunday worship.
OPEN to EVERYONE!

September 7
October 12
December 7
February 22

Confirmation and Reception of New Members

April 18, 2026

Contact Mother Esther for more information. [262-673-7273]



St. Aidan's Book Discussion

Wednesday, September 3, 2025
12:30 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

*Putting on the Mind of Christ:
The Inner Work of Christian Spirituality*

By Jim Marion

What does it mean to follow the path of Christ today? *Putting on the Mind of Christ* offers an integral understanding of the Christian spiritual path--examining the basic stages of spiritual development described by the great saints and sages, along with the psychological stages of development used by modern psychology.



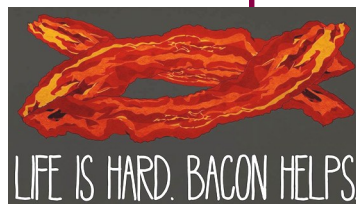
Thursday — September 4
6:30 — 7:30 pm
All voices welcome!

Men's Breakfast

First Saturdays

September 6

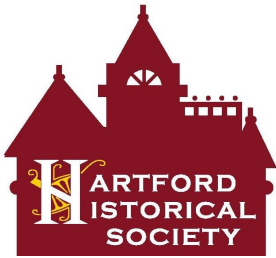
Cooking 8am
Eating 8:30am



OVERBOARD

WHOOSH





Pleasant Hill Cemetery Tour
September 6
Noon to 3 pm
See poster on page 12



Saturday, November 22, 2025
Kettle Moraine Regional Gathering

ALL PEOPLE of
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF WISCONSIN
KETTLE MORAINES REGION

are invited to meet with Bishop Matthew Gunter and to participate in a day of sharing about the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin.

ST. AIDAN'S IS HOSTING THIS EVENT
FOR OUR REGION

The Joy of Church Community

Regional and Ecumenical Re-
treat

**St. Aidan's Episcopal
Church**

Spring 2026

Regional Planning Meeting
Saturday, September 13
Mother Esther's House
1023 Milwaukee Street, Delafield
10am - Noon
Lunch Provided



Eric Wetzel's Words

Good day to the Great People of St. Aidan's --

I want to thank you. For mostly Being You. When people ask me why I am a Christian, why I chose to be an Episcopalian, why I'm at St. Aidan's — **Peace, Love, and Forgiveness.**

This is what I want, and this is the environment where I can be what I want. Thank you ALL!

Now if you feel all buttered up and ready for the oven, here is why St. Aidan's is doubly awesome. Many years ago, we were asked, "What does St. Aidan's DO?" Simple. Beyond the obvious, Peace, Love, and Forgiveness.

We Do Events.

We need a new icon of Michael Jordan jumping over the church with a serving tray in one hand and a vacuum in the other.

We do events. And this ability will flex its muscle this year. Time to step up and how. This fall we will be hosting the Bishop and all his attendees as part of his Week in the Kettle Moraine Region.

This is but an appetizer for us, spring training if you will. For this spring we will hold an Ecumenical Event which not only includes the other churches in our region, but all the Episcopal churches in our region, potentially other ecumenical partners from those churches' areas, maybe the WORLD...

Let's Get HOT! I heard from a prominent source there may be animals.

Giddy with anticipation. Thank you ALL in Advance.

Eric Wetzel
Senior Warden





Earlier this year, a mid-week funeral was held at St. Aidan's. Pastora Loretta had known the lady, Jean Bell, during her hospital chaplaincy days and had agreed to officiate at her funeral when the time came. The family asked if it would be possible to live stream the service, so that far-flung relatives could take part. Because Tom still works for a living, I handled the streaming. The service was lovely and after ending the stream, I promptly forgot about it.

Then later, a thank you note came to the church. I would like to share it with all of you:

Lorraine,

Thank you so much for live-streaming our mother's funeral. One of her friends from childhood, also 93, living out west, told us she dressed up for it and watched as if she were there! Brought tears to my eyes. What you do matters very much to people.

Thank you!

Sue & Greg

Our media ministries, newsletter, E-news, and everything else we do to bring St. Aidan's before the public has the power to impact lives. Please remember that as Tom Schlaefter and I crouch over our monitors in the Narthex. Thank you all for supporting our efforts.

Lorraine Garner



Esther's Epistle

Dear Friends,

One of the things I like about the wisdom of Jesus is the way it can be so very practical! In the Gospel passage Deacon Terry read during our worship service on August 17 from Luke (12: 49-56), we were reminded that we are given gifts to interpret signs in nature, but as faithful people we are also called to interpret what is happening around us. Jesus describes the way people generally anticipate what will happen when clouds gather (it will most likely rain) and when the temperatures increase (we will most likely feel warm or there is a fire!). He notes that we are able to see the effects of the wind blowing. From what seems like a rather exasperated Jesus, he tells the people. "You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" Jesus is still teaching us to see things as they really are, to use our gifts for interpreting what is happening around us in our relationships, the church, our community, our nation, and the world.

During September, Please join me as we think and talk about how our relationships, our church, our community, our nation, and our world are changing in ways we may not have anticipated. I encourage you to engage in the **St. Aidan's Book Discussion, our Adult Forum, and in planning for a Spring Ecumenical Retreat at St. Aidan's** – where, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can encourage one another to see the world and one another more clearly, trust in the God's love, let go of our fears, and find ways to live in peace.

Yes, I'm asking you to join me as we discern God's will for us and this St. Aidan's Church community, now and in the future. I'm asking you to join me in trusting that God will help us interpret what is happening around us and give us the strength we need to adapt and grow. I pray that together we listen to the Holy Spirit – and respond with love!

Mother Esther +



St. Aidan's + School Supplies = A+

It's a great formula!

St. Aidan's adds school supplies to the back-to-school process and this equals well-equipped children and relieved parents!

The new school year will soon begin, and some of our neighborhood children are equipped with supplies generously donated by our parishioners. During the open houses on two separate dates (one morning, one later afternoon/evening), 21 students and their parents came in for supplies. It was a joy to watch them selecting their backpacks and all the supplies necessary for a successful start to their year — crayons, notebooks, pencils, glue sticks, markers, and more! We also offered gently used clothing for the kids and that was well received as well. Your generosity relieved the burden from many parents who wondered how they'd make ends meet.

On behalf of the Outreach team and the children, thank you for your kindness.

Dear God, thank you for this new school year. Please bless the students, teachers, and those who guide them. Give them strength to work hard, and help the students grow in wisdom, understanding, and compassion for the world around them. Amen.

Laura Johnston
Outreach Team Coordinator



Deaconspeak

musings from the left shoulder

"Welcome to the Covid club." That's what the nurse practitioner at the urgent care clinic said to me after I returned from my holiday and week of dance classes in Canada. She was responding to my affirming it was my first case of Covid, and she said it with a good deal of levity. Perhaps she was encouraged by my very mild symptoms and positive attitude (pun intended). And -- did I actually detect a little dance of joy as she expressed it? I envisioned the smile in her eyes behind her face mask.

As I reflect on her actions and attitude, I also ponder how we at St Aidan's welcome one another to our "club" of Jesus People (as Bishop Michael Curry says). You have probably heard me say previously that Loraine and I asked Bishop Lee to assign me to St Aidan's, primarily based on the welcome we felt when we visited on Sunday.

Was our visit easy for you? Meaning, did you feel relatively safe and comfortable offering hospitality to a white, middle-aged, English-speaking, heterosexual, married couple who already seemed to know the liturgy? Look around you in church, and that is primarily the demographic that you see. I ask this question of all of us — as individuals as well as for our collective faith community.

More pointedly, how comfortable and safe do we feel when we encounter visiting neighbors who are not so much like us, differing in skin color, or language, or age, or sexual orientation, or style of hair, or clothes, or familiarity with the *Book of Common Prayer* and hymnals?

Try to recall a time when you found yourself in a completely new setting, perhaps socially -- when you went along with an invited guest, possibly at work or at school, visiting a church of a different denomination while on vacation. Did you feel a bit -- or a lot -- out of place? What did others do that made you feel welcome or more at ease, easily fitting in? What did they do that made you want to turn around and leave?

If you can envision these scenarios, then you can be better prepared for what to do or say and not do or say when someone different shows up and sits in a pew. Smile, offer a Bulletin, ask what brings them to St Aidan's, look to see if they are familiar with the service bulletin and hymnals. Offer a prayer for the Spirit to help you welcome them! All these actions and more are acts of loving our neighbors. Welcome = Hospitality.

These are things we all can do -- and in doing so we show our love of God.

Love in Christ -- **terry**



ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



September 2025

	7	14	21	28
Reader	D. Bemi	M.B. Moran	L. Daley	B. Pollock
Prayers	B. Pollock	L. Schrunk	A. Pollock	C. Gardner
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	A. Schrunk	L. Daley
Usher	J. Pierce	Pollocks	R. Schnorenberg	Schmidts
LEM	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann
Counters	K. Fairchild/M. Weber	M.B. Moran/Hoffmann	A. M-Meigs/Gardner	Pierce/Schnorenberg
Cleaning				
Altar				



	5	12	19	26
Reader	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann	B. Mendoza	T. Schlaefer
Prayers	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda	D. Bemi	E. Schmidt
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	L. Daley	A. Schrunk
Usher	Webers	Schrunks	J. Pierce	L. Molenda
LEM	L. Johnston	M. Weber	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk
Counters	Moran/A.M- Meigs	Fairchild/Gardner	Hoffmann/Schnorenberg	Pierce/Weber
Cleaning				
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 — SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2	3 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 an—Noon  Book Discussion 12:30 pm	4  Choir 6:30 pm	5 Office open 9 an—Noon	6  Men's B'fast 8:30 am
7 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School  Adult Forum after worship	8	9	10 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 an—Noon	11	12 Office open 9 an—Noon	13 Spring Retreat Planning @ Mthr. Esther's 10 am
14 Worship — 9:30 am Confirmation	15	16	17 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 an—Noon	18  Choir 6:30 pm	19 Office open 9 an—Noon	20
21 Worship — 9:30 am  Sharing Sunday  Vestry Budget Prep S&S articles due	22	23	24 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 an—Noon	25  Choir 6:30 pm	26 Office open 9 an—Noon	27  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist
28 Worship — 9:30 am Confirmation	29	30	30 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am Office open 9 an—Noon  Sharing Sunday	3rd Sunday — Sharing Sunday The paper and coin collection supports Mother Esther's discretionary fund, used to help our neighbors in need — more often than you might think! Please be generous!		



St. Aidan's Office Hours

Wednesdays — 9 am to Noon

Fridays — 9 am to Noon

Or by appointment

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

The Rev. 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

Laura Johnston, Junior Warden

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 --

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.



- 2 Lynne & Dwight Behrendt
- 3 Laura & John Johnston
- 4 Laura Schmidt
- 8 Loretta Mendoza
- 9 Bruce Pollock
- 10 Maya Mercado
- 11 Lily Mercado
- 13 Charles Gardner
- Louise & Brian Schrunck
- 18 Fido Mercado
- 21 Micki Hoffmann
- 22 Barb Morgan
- 26 Jack Beml
- Steve Trewyn



Hartford Community Lunch

Saturday, September 27

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.**



Just to catch you up to date -- it's been a month and the Pollocks are still winning the raccoon wars. Since we put up our new bird feeder guard the raccoons have been baffled. This may not last forever, but it is a small victory, and I will enjoy it.

Speaking of enjoyment, a week or so ago I went to Camp Lakota (the old Camp Webb) for Women's MiniWeek. MiniWeek is a long women's weekend, a time to rest, relax, and unwind. The organization of the retreat is managed by a group that changes every two or three years. It is exciting to plan events that will be interesting and refreshing for the women who come. The St Aidan's women have had their turn planning workshops and events. There is church, of course, with lovely music provided by Dee Kaker and friends, there are activities of course, and lots of free time. The camp staff does the cooking and the dishes, and we just enjoy ourselves in the pine woods along the lake, having a peaceful four days. And probably eat too much. The corn salad recipe is similar to a dish we had and might be just the thing for St Aidan's picnic if you have any corn on the cob leftovers!

Corn Salad with Lime

- 4 C corn kernels
- 1 C cherry tomatoes halved
- 1 C canned black beans rinsed
- 1/2 C Red onion diced

Mix all together

- 3 Tbs fresh lime juice
- 3 Tbs olive oil
- 1 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper

Mix all and pour over the salad

Best if it sits for a couple hours to meld the flavor.

Garnish with herbs as desired



Dee Kaker (far right) has served as music director for Women's Mini-Week since 2019.

Alice Pollock



Three women from St. Aidan's attended women's MiniWeek along with family and friends.

L-R **Linda Weber**, Erin Norris (Alice's daughter), **Alice Pollock**, Diane from Abbotsford, Sarah from Madison, and Jeanne Hesseling, Dee's mom.

Front **Dee Kaker**

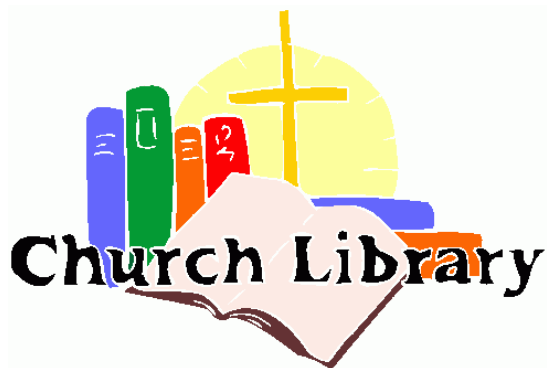
Lord, teach us to pray —



Dan Bemis and Ted del Solar delight the Congregation, singing "The Lord's Prayer."

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF



School's starting! Those who miss those days are in luck! St. Aidan's provides ample opportunities to keep your brain active and entertained —

Sunday's sermon
Planning meetings
Book Discussion

September 3 @ 12:30 pm. Come and discuss even if you haven't read the book!

BOOKS! on our Library shelves Help yourselves — books for study, prayer, contemplation, and good stories! *Remember the strict rules: Take as many books as you wish. Return them when you can.*



Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph.

-Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia
 1892-1975



Building & Grounds Team

A Season of Work

For several years, St. Aidan's has worked closely with the groups, Faith in Place and Focus on Energy, to identify energy efficient opportunities for our building and take advantage of rebate/funding programs to help offset the costs of becoming more energy efficient as well as upgrading equipment.

Earlier this year, Focus on Energy offered the opportunity for Houses of Worship to participate in a free pilot program. St. Aidan's was accepted into this program and conducted an energy audit during which one of our air conditioners died. Working with Focus on Energy and getting quotes from several contractors, our Buildings and Ground team determined that Focus on Energy's cost sharing (\$24,000) would enable us to replace all four AC units. It made sense to take advantage of this program which expires at the end of this year. Consequently, St. Aidan's contribution toward the cost of these four units will be **\$14,000** instead of the full price, \$38,000. The new air conditioners will be installed in the next several weeks; and we appreciate your patience while we work through this process.

Aside from the air conditioners, this Spring and Summer have been busy maintenance times for St. Aidan's. You'll recall we replaced 42' of sprinkler system pipe. We recently completed seal coating and crack repair in the parking lot, including painting the bases of the light posts, and the replacement of concrete at the front entrance and north entrances.

This Spring and Summer have been busy maintenance times at St. Aidan's:

- 42' sprinkler system pipe replaced
- Seal coating, crack repair on parking lot
- Painted bases of light posts
- Front entrance concrete replaced
- 4 new air conditioners to be installed

The care of our church home is much like that of your personal residence. It requires vigilance to ensure we're proactive in the upkeep of our house and responsive when unforeseen maintenance issues arise. Thank you for your help in keeping our house in great shape!

Laura Johnston
 Junior Warden



Patio Garden Preparation Complete

The Creation Care Committee is very happy to announce that the site of the Patio Native Garden has been prepared with layers of cardboard and wood chips. This will remain in place in order to smother the grasses and other plants in that area over the Fall and Winter months. Special thanks to the volunteers who removed tape and labels from the cardboard and to the stalwart souls -- **Laura, Micki, Steve, Dave, Charles, Lynn, and Alex** -- who laid, cut, mulched, and raked. Their efforts have **saved St. Aidan's \$1,928**.

In the Spring our landscape designer, Danielle Bell, will provide us with a variety of native flowers and grasses appropriate to our site. **The cost of the plants, \$2,345, has been provided by donations** specifically set aside in a Creation Care fund. They will be planted directly through the layers and will continue to provide a weed barrier while the plants become established. Because these plants are native to SE Wisconsin, they will require no fertilization or watering. What they **will** do is provide food and habitat for native insects, birds and other pollinators who are so at risk in our changing climate. They will also be a source of education and beauty for the Hartford community.

If volunteers dig the holes and insert the plants, it will **save St. Aidan's an \$1,854** installation fee.

Detailed pictures of some of the plants to be installed and a diagram of the plan are in the hall leading to the community room. Copies of those plans are available in the narthex. Please feel free to reach out to us with questions or concerns about this and future projects.

Lynn Molenda

Co-chair, Creation Care



Two layers of cardboard and 6+ inches of mulch laid down on the hottest day of the summer! Alex Hoffmann, Micki's grandson, and a member of St. Olaf's Lutheran church provided ecumenical help!



Removing tape and labels —



Why a native plant pollinator garden?

In the words of Jay Watson, a Conservation Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR, "One in three mouthfuls of food and drink we consume is dependent on the work of pollinators." Pollinators help in the production of over 1,200 food crops, including various fruits, vegetables, and seeds. With 75% of the world's flowering plants needing pollination, pollinators help 180,000 different plants around the world survive and provide us with clean air, healthy soil, and oxygen. [*5 Steps to Planting a Pollinator Garden in Wisconsin*, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin]. A pollinator garden is an engaging undertaking that will help God's vulnerable creatures. We also believe that this project will serve as a visual reminder to our congregation that we care for God's creation and foster an understanding of the importance of putting "feet to our faith" in ecological matters.

From the proposal to the Grace Lutheran Church Council, Cambridge, WI. Members of Grace were inspired to create a pollinator garden at their church by St. Aidan's Creation Summit!

A Word on Statistics

Out of every hundred people
those who always know better:
fifty-two.
Unsure of every step:
almost all the rest.
Ready to help,
if it doesn't take long:
forty-nine.
Always good,
because they cannot be otherwise:
four—well, maybe five.
Able to admire without envy:
eighteen.
Led to error
by youth (which passes):
sixty, plus or minus.
Those not to be messed with:
forty and four.
Living in constant fear
of someone or something:
seventy-seven.
Capable of happiness:
twenty-some-odd at most.
Harmless alone,
turning savage in crowds:
more than half, for sure.
Cruel
when forced by circumstances:
it's better not to know,
not even approximately.
Wise in hindsight:
not many more
than wise in foresight.
Getting nothing out of life except things:
thirty
(though I would like to be wrong).
Doubled over in pain
and without a flashlight in the dark:
eighty-three, sooner or later.
Those who are just:
quite a few at thirty-five.
But if it takes effort to understand:
three.
Worthy of empathy:
ninety-nine.
Mortal:
one hundred out of one hundred—
a figure that has never varied yet.

Wisława Szymborska

Translated by Joanna Trzeciak



Forward Movement has announced the 2025 reflection words for AdventWord, an inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday Lectionary readings.

For nearly a decade, AdventWord has inspired followers of Jesus who wish to add an accessible prayer practice to their daily routine each Advent. During this holy, busy season, disciples are invited to find small moments of reflection to stay connected to their personal faith, to others, and to God.

Daily meditations and images—inspired by a prompt word selected from the daily lectionary readings—will be released at advent-word.org, beginning Sunday, November 30.

Email subscribers and social media followers will receive a daily meditation (in English and Spanish) and visual image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression.

AdventWord

November 30 – December 25, 2025

30	Again	13	Unquenchable
1	Said	14	Honor
2	Tribes	15	Abundantly
3	Quietness	16	Recompense
4	Reveling	17	Highway
5	Gratify	18	Cleansed
6	Day	19	Robes
7	Heed	20	Truly
8	Counsel	21	Deep
9	Equity	22	Declared
10	Encouragement	23	Mother
11	Written	24	Angel
12	Brood	25	Endless

AdventWord.org



2025 CEMETERY TOUR

Join us at shady Pleasant Hill cemetery where new research has added to the stories of a teenage car crash victim and a double suicide. Listen to the story of a swindler who is buried near those he swindled and John Philip Sousa's star flutist who in 1934 died when he crashed the plane he had built while performing aerial tricks at Hartford's Fireman's Picnic.



Free Event!

Join us on Facebook & Instagram at
hartfordhistoricalsocietywi

Join Us!

Saturday,
September 6

12:00 – 3:00pm

**Pleasant Hill
Cemetery**

Hartford · Hwy 60 West

Enter Cemetery from
Pond Road