



ST. AIDAN'S

STAG & STAFF

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

SEPTEMBER 2026

VOLUME XL NUMBER 9



Wednesday
September 2
12:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Do I Stay Christian?

By Brian McLaren

The author answers the question in three parts — No, Yes, and how do we make church better. YOU DECIDE! But first, come and discuss!

Lynn Molenda and Geri Kelly



Rally Sunday **September 13**
Coffee Hour

A great time to choose your participation in St. Aidan's activities, ministries, leadership!



Episcopal Church Women

"Empowering women to carry out Christ's ministry in the world."

ECW Gathering Tuesday, September 15

6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Upcoming events: Christmas Bazaar planning

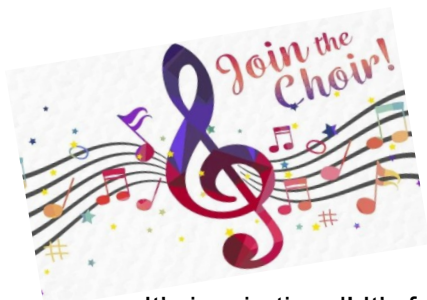
Review of refurbishing project – What's next for 2027?

Join us for conversation, planning, dessert and coffee

Check out ECW projects/events throughout country, during the summer of 2026: <https://ecwnational.org/3d-flip-book/communique-summer-2026/>

More national information:

[Ecwnational.org](https://ecwnational.org) and ECW News Blast



It's inspirational! It's fun! It's for everyone! You **DO NOT** have to know how to read music. You **DO** have to enjoy singing and camaraderie!

More information on Page 2 and the Events Calendar, Page 6.

FIRST PRACTICE:
September 6.



Get Ready!

St Aidan's Parish Cèilidh

19 September — 3 pm — Fellowship Hall

Cèilidh — a social gathering of any sort that might include storytelling, singing, instrumental music, jokes, proverbs, sharing of local news, and dancing."

This is not a performance venue. Come ready to share: laughter, a song, snacks, a story, fun, a poem, a joke, even a limerick – and Terry will teach us some cèilidh dances that will bring a smile. These are social, fun dances that **you, yes – all y'all**, may either dance or walk in rhythm to jigs and reels. Kilts and fancy footwork are admired but not required.

All ages and friends are welcome. We'll focus on details & signups soon after the St Aidan's Day celebration. Alert **Deacon Terry** about what YOU would like to share!



St. Aidan's Music Notes

Sing to the Lord a new song! New songs, old songs, short songs, long songs! We love to sing together. The St. Aidan's Family Singers meet after church services for some brief and some longer rehearsals. We prepare selections as anthems once a month or so. And we lift up our voices and hearts in praise. Leading from the pews is part of our calling, too! Come as often as you can. Find the dates on the Events Calendar, p. 6

Blessings,
Pat Gardner

Psalm 96

1-2 Sing GOD a brand new song!

Earth and everyone in it, sing!

Sing to GOD -- worship GOD!

2-3 Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea,

Take the news of his glory to the lost,

News of his wonders to one and all!

4-5 For GOD is great and worth a thousand Hallelujahs!

His furious beauty puts the other gods to shame,

Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags.

5-6 God made the heavens--

Royal splendor radiates from him,

A powerful beauty sets him apart.

7 Bravo GOD! Bravo!

Everyone join in the great shout: Encore!

In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might.

8-9 Bring gifts and celebrate,

Bow before the beauty of GOD,

then to your knees - everyone worship!

10 Get out the message - GOD rules!

He put the world on a firm foundation,

He treats everyone fair and square.

11 Let's hear it from Sky,

With Earth joining in.

A huge round of applause from Sea.

12 Let Wilderness turn cartwheels!

Animals, come dance!

Put every tree of the forest in the choir!

13 An extravaganza before GOD as he comes,

As he comes to set everything right on earth.

Set everything right, treat everyone fair.

The Message Bible

Eugene Peterson

Contributed by **Pat Gardner**

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Most Sunday afternoons I click through various available and free images on the internet looking for a picture that I can paste into the Mailchimp email with a recording of our Sunday worship service. A few Sundays ago, I typed "change in the church" because my sermon that week addressed the point in the Christian story when Jesus turns his attention toward the spiritual needs of the Gentiles (all the people who are not Jewish). I was thinking about how the passage from Matthew's Gospel [15:21-26] helps us understand the way change has always been part of the church. People change and then institutions, like the church, change too.

So, I laughed when I saw I found an image of a sign in front of an older church building with this message, **"Come as you are. You can change inside."** I laughed because the sign is a refreshing reminder that the Christian church is for everyone at any stage in life – and we can all change for the better, inside a supportive environment. In the Gospel message, Jesus helps us understand that we should learn from our experiences and grow in our faith. Here, at St. Aidan's as the season changes to Fall, I challenge you to try something new. Join a new committee, join an established committee, join the choir, become a lector, usher and/or Lay Eucharistic Minister, join the Altar Guild, run for Vestry, host a coffee hour, decorate cookies for the Christmas Bazaar, or volunteer in other ways. I guarantee that participating in the church community will change you, and your participation will change this church for the better. It will change the nature and shape of the Christian church for years to come. I hope you will always feel free to come to St. Aidan's as you are, then change and grow - with us!

Mother Esther +



STAG & STAFF



Thursday evening. The sun is just disappearing behind the pine trees. It has been a long day of exquisite boredom with no knitting or book, sitting on hard plastic hospital chairs provided for the convenience of family members but mostly for easy cleaning, hour after hour. It is not relevant to what I want to write about, but Bruce is mending nicely.

I am writing about a bee. After the exquisitely boring day, I sat outside to enjoy the birds and the flowers and the last of the evening sunshine when I was visited by a tiny bee. It was so tiny that four of them would have had plenty of space on my little fingernail. The absolute wonder of such a functioning alive creature whose legs were thinner than the hairs on my head and whose striped body was practically transparent was like a cool breeze wafting away all the frustration and distress of the day. He/she investigated every millimeter of my fingernail with such purposeful intent that I wondered if my dinner menu was written there! Apparently unafraid the investigation continued as I turned my hand this way and that to better view the tiny gossamer wings and the multiple eyes. It is simply amazing that this fragile creature exists at all, not to mention, there are 20,000 known species (I looked it up). And then there are elephants and birds and Buster the Dog asleep on my feet. [Only Buster!] I felt much better. I will make a honeycake tomorrow.

Lemon Honeycake. 350* 25-35"

1 1/2 C. flour
3/4 C. almond flour
1 1/2 t. baking powder
1/2 t. baking soda

Stir these together and set aside.

1/2 C. butter
1/2 C. sugar
1/4 C. honey

Cream together.

2 eggs
1c yogurt
1lemon, Zest and juice

Add to the creamed mixture and stir in the dry ingredients. Pour into a greased 9X9" or layer pan.

Bake at 350* 20-35 minutes. While just warm drizzle with a mixture of:

1/4 C. honey, 2T. melted butter, 1T. lemon juice

Alice Pollock



Quilting for Good

Mary Moran has again created beautiful quilts to raffle for the Pink Pumpkin Run and St. Aidan's Little Pantry.

Mary did the sewing — now it's our turn!

Buy raffle tickets!

Sell raffle tickets!

Help OCTOBER 3, 2026 @ the PP Run

Quilts and raffle info — Page 4

See Mary for details and to VOLUNTEER!



**Scripture Study
Thursdays — 4 pm
Fellowship Hall**

Discuss Sunday's readings — and more!

Eric Wetzel



Birthdays & Anniversaries

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 Schrunk
18	Fido Mercado
21	Micki Hoffmann
22	Barb Morgan
26	Jack Bemi
	Steve Trewyn



Quilting for Good



St. Aidan's Quilt Raffle



Raffle License #: R0024414-A-09911



Choose the quilt you wish to win!

Raffle drawing: Sunday, Oct. 4th @ 11 a.m.

Tickets: \$5 each

100% of proceeds go to the charity of your choice:

Pink Pumpkin Run -or- St. Aidan's Little Food Pantry

Location: St. Aidan's Church
670 E. Monroe Ave., Hartford WI

For more information, contact Mary Moran: (262) 224-0543



Sizing (inches): 1) 46x62 2) 53x57 3) 39x53 4) 47x62 5) 43x54 6) 45x51 7) 50x56 8) 54x68 9) 48x65 10) 44x61

ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

 September 2026				
	6	13	20	27
Reader	K. Fairchild	L. Molenda	M.B. Moran	S. Schmidt
Prayers	E. Schmidt	B. Pollock	L. Schrunk	T. Schlaefer
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	L. Daley	A. Schrunk
Usher	J. Thorbahn Pierce	Pollocks	R. Schnorenberg	Schmidts
LEM	A. Pollock	R. Schnorenberg	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann
Counters	Schnorenberg/M-Meigs	Fairchild/Gardner	Weber/Pierce	Moran/Hoffmann
Coffee Hour Clean-up	Dinco/Pollock Geri Kelly	Hoffmann/Weber Judy Pierce	Morgan/Paddon Donna Dinco	Kelly/Mendoza Greta/Dan Beml
Cleaning	None	Weber	None	Mercado
Altar	L. Weber			

 OCTOBER 2026				
	4	11	18	25
Reader	E. Wetzel	D. Beml	B. Schrunk	L. Daley
Prayers	M. Hoffmann	K. Fairchild	C. Gardner	L. Molenda
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	L. Daley	A. Schrunk
Usher	Webers	Schrunks	D. Rabe	L. Molenda
LEM	J. Thorbahn Pierce	M. Weber	L. Johnson	A. Pollock
Counters	Fairchild/M Meigs	Pierce/Gardner	Schnorenberg/ Hoffmann	Weber/Moran
Coffee Hour Hosts	Beml/Johnston	Moran/Schrunk	Dinco/Hoffman	Weber/Mendoza
Coffee Hour Clean	J. Pierce	M. Hoffmann	A. Pollock	L. Schrunk
Cleaning	NA	Weber	NA	Gardner
Altar	G. Heftl			

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 Heftl at gail.heftl@gmail.com or 920-740-3997.

PARISH EVENTS SEPTEMBER — 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am  Book Group 12:30 pm	3  dig deeper 4 pm	4	5  MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 am
6 Worship — 9:30 am Healing Service  CHOIR REHEARSAL Short	7	8	9  GOOD MORNING St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	10  dig deeper 4 pm	11	12
13 Worship — 9:30 am  Rally Sunday  CHOIR REHEARSAL  Sharing Sunday	14	15  ECW EVERY WOMAN IN EVERY PEW 6:30 pm	16  GOOD MORNING St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	17  dig deeper 4 pm	18	19  Cèilidh 3 pm
20 Worship — 9:30 am Vestry Meeting	21	22	23  GOOD MORNING St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	24  dig deeper 4 pm	25	26  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist
27 Worship — 9:30 am  CHOIR REHEARSAL Short	28	29	30  GOOD MORNING St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. —John 13:35 		

"WE ARE THE Episcopal BRANCH OF THE Jesus movement"

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

Deacon Terry Garner

414-807-4378

dcnterry.g@gmail.com

Michael Weber, Treasurer

Rachel Lynch, Parish Administrator

Vestry Wardens

Eric Wetzel, Senior Warden

Laura Johnston, Junior Warden

Vestry\

Geri Kelly

Lynn Molenda

Mike Morgan

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan's Newsletter

Published monthly

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Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer need for someone or something, please call **Alice Pollock** [262-707-3456] or the church office.

SEPTEMBER 2026



Mondays --

AA 7 - 8 pm Parish Hall

Tuesdays --

Women's AA Noon Parish Hall

Wednesdays

Office Open 9am - Noon

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.

Buildings & Grounds



Building and grounds work to be completed this summer:

- Installation of new sprinkler system pipe in the Northeast section of the building
- Replacement of existing air compressor (related to sprinkler system)
- Removal and replacement of damaged asphalt at the South end of the parking lot

This work totals almost \$15,000. As the work dates are established, a notice will be sent out via ENews. Thanks for your patience and support.

Laura Johnston, Jr. Warden



Hartford Community Lunch

Saturday, September 26
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**.



*St. Aidan's Annual
Christmas Bazaar*

Saturday, December 12

Plans are underway!

We need your help!



Cookie decorators. If you decorated cookies last year we'd love to have your help again this year! Decorating dates TBA. New decorators welcome!



Lunch ladies. If you don't decorate but want to be part of the fun? Volunteer to bring a light lunch for the cookiers!



Bakers. We sell much more than decorated cookies. If you love to bake, we sell all sorts of Christmas cookies, sweet breads, candies, brownies, jams and jellies. Make some!



Craftfolk. Exercise your creativity with your favorite hobby. We sell amazing handmade items at the bazaar. Knit? Crochet? Paint? Woodwork? Contribute!



Basket makers. We also have an amazing assortment of donated baskets to raffle. Be creative and resourceful!



Bazaar folks. Work the week of the Bazaar with organization and set up. Greet and meet people the Bazaar day.

We need you!



Questions? Volunteering!. Ideas!
Contact **Linda Weber**
262-442-3364
lkwbiology@gmail.com



deaconspeak:

musings from the left shoulder

Some of you have had the pleasure of dropping in to St Aidan's on a Friday morning and experienced an exuberant, raucous greeting from our "girlz" Scarlet (blue eyes) and Liza (brown eyes). Scarlet wants you to know that you are her new best friend, so she wants to jump on you, play, and lick you. On the other hand, Liza wants you to know that she is small but mighty, and if you give her a treat she'll still bark at you – wanting more.



Of course that leads me to a question: How do we extend greetings to people when they come into our lives? Although this is applicable to all aspects of our lives, let's focus on extending hospitality at St Aidan's – particularly with someone we do not already know.

With the recent Little Pantry Market + School Supplies Day, I'd say St Aidan's did very well. Whether you were there to help guests, or set up or cleaned up, or if you donated stuff and/or funds, those who came to us that day felt welcome and unconditional love.

Sometimes, though, we may feel reticent to get too involved, perhaps thinking that it is somebody else's ministry. — like when someone new comes to church on Sunday morning? We may try to hide behind our personal boundaries. We don't want to intrude or step on toes and depend on another person (or persons) to offer hospitality.

This is especially the time we must depend on Jesus to give us the strength, the courage, and the words to offer one's own bit of love, to extend a hand or a smile, to notice if a visitor isn't following along, and to offer guidance.

Unlike Scarlet & Liza you do not need to be exuberant and raucous, but like them let each and every one of us offer Christ's loving presence of radical hospitality – one by one by one -- Love in Christ

terry



CREATION CARE PROJECTS

In coordination with the Episcopal Wisconsin Diocesan Creation Care Committee, Faith in Place, the National Episcopal Creation Care initiative, the WI Wild Ones, the interdenominational One Home One Future, and the WI Natural Resources Foundation, one of our goals at St. Aidan's is to repurpose our lawn into a healthy and restorative environment for all of God's creatures. The projects we have developed with the Native Roots company are a big step in that direction.

Patio Garden

Danielle Bell, our landscape designer, donated 20 new plants: prairie dock, purple coneflower, butterfly weed and blazing star to replace those lost by drought and animal damage. She installed wire bins on many of them for protection. Charles Gardner, Steve Trewyn, Dave Peitsch and Lynn Molenda saved St. Aidan's \$300 by helping to plant the replacements. As these plants mature, they will need less tending.

Insectopia Prairie

The Lindborg family has funded the Insectopia project and its maintenance for 2 years. We hope to transform St. Aidan's Church property into a pollinator haven. We will replace the existing grass between the northern property line and the north driveway with a diverse prairie. After the existing vegetation is killed off in September, we will overseed the area with the Insectopia Seed Mix, full of native flowers and grasses, during the dormant season between November and January, weather dependent. We will also sow a cover crop to assist with competition against weed seeds in the soil.

Woodland Tree and Shrub Corner

Several donors have given \$8000 of the \$14,000 needed for the woodland tree and shrub area in the Southwest area of the property. Trees that may be planted in the fall are Red Oak, Bur Oak, Black Cherry, Shagbark Hickory, Hackberry and Ironwood as well as shrubs for an understory layer. Additional donors are encouraged to add to this project in honor of someone they love. We will install signage to identify those dedications.

Creation Care Commission
Lynn Molenda



Brrrrr.....

As the weather cools off, we look in our closets for warmer clothing — sweaters, jackets, gloves. What if the children outgrew their winter clothing, and there aren't funds to buy new clothing?

St. Aidan's can help! Some families WON'T have to go without. **On Saturday, November 14**, we will host our annual Winter Clothing Event. We'll have winter coats, boots, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, socks and more.

Please help! Donate gently used winter clothing for **CHILDREN** and **ADULTS**! Or make a cash donation toward the purchase of these items. **Thank you** for your help in sharing the warmth and joy of Christ's love.

Good News



We had a great time with our grands 9 & 7 yrs old. In July they were with us for 8 days and one of those days we had our great grandson from NC. We kept them busy every day! We also had wonderful family time this summer!
Loretta & Bert Mendoza



Women's MiniWeek 2026



Dedicated to
Connie Ott
Whose vision created
Women's Miniweek
50 Years ago
1976-2026

Held each summer for the last 50 years [except during COVID], Mini-Week camp is organized and attended by women from across the diocese. The 50 Year celebration included honoring Connie Ott, MiniWeek's founding mother. She was presented with an Adirondak chair with a plaque and an embroidered hoop . Among the attendees this year: **Alice Pollock**, Jeanne Hessling [Dee's mom], **Linda Weber**, **Dee Kaker**, and Erin Norris [Alice's daughter].

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Chair of Wonder

The first wondering is a universal one — a parishioner asked, "Where do those single socks go?" Wonder no more! Careful research has resulted in a definitive answer: A beloved Hartford artist and author, Lorna Balian answered that very question in her delightful book, *The Socksnatchers*. She has given us pictorial evidence that proves there are never-seen folks who are in greater need of socks than we are. She records that the sock-snatchers firmly believe, "Snatching one sock is SHARING, but taking a pair of socks is STEALING!" The book adds to the understanding that there are different cultural/moral norms among different groups! Mystery solved and all ends well. [You can borrow my book for study of the finer details of this phenomenon.] Please continue to submit your deep and otherwise wonderings to the editor!

Micki Hoffmann



Grace Hermann and Gabriel Hoffmann were married this summer at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Hubertus. **Micki Hoffmann** is Gabe's proud grandmother.

STAG & STAFF



Loaves of Bread

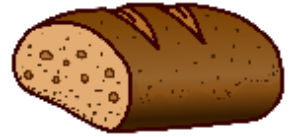
On Saturday, August 15, St. Aidan's parishioners shared Christ's love with 40 neighbors.

Through faith, the generosity of our parishioners, Hartford Food Pantry, and Fehrings Corn, our loaves of bread multiplied. They turned into fresh produce, meats, cheese, eggs, bread, groceries, and smiles all around. Visitors could also fill backpacks with notebooks, crayons, pencils, markers, new and gently used clothing and more to start off the school year!

Aidan's is so very blessed to have an opportunity to help ease the strain for local families.

Thank you to all who donated and those who served.

Laura Johnston



Whatever
you did for
one
of the
least
of these
brothers
AND
sisters
of mine
you did
for
me
Matthew 25:40

ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAG & STAFF

BISHOP RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



July 29, 2026

Dear People of the Diocese of Wisconsin,

I am writing to let you know that I have made the decision to call for the election of the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Wisconsin in October of 2027. I plan to resign (retire) once the new bishop is ordained and consecrated in the spring of 2028.

I love the Diocese of Wisconsin. I love being your bishop. I have known and served with many of you for many years. I have just started to get to know some of you. I am excited about what we have accomplished since the reunification. I am excited about the possibilities for the future. I cannot imagine a better diocese in which to serve. And yet, I believe it is time to move toward calling a new bishop to help guide the diocese into the next chapter.

During the conversation leading up to the reunion of the three historic Wisconsin dioceses, we acknowledged that given my age, I would inevitably be a "bridge bishop" and I would not be Bishop of Wisconsin for very long. I will turn 70 at the end of next year. That seems old enough to step away and make space for someone else. I also have a grandson in Cleveland who is about to turn one year old and I would like to spend more time with him. For these and other reasons now seems a good time to start this process.

It is also a good time because the Diocese of Wisconsin has made a good beginning and is on a firm footing. We have an excellent, faithful, and dedicated staff. We are blessed with truly fine clergy and wonderful lay leadership. There is growth of membership and vitality around the diocese. Our finances are good. I look forward to continuing my part in the good work begun for the next 18–24 months. During that time we will continue to perfect the diocesan structures, continue to assist congregations in flourishing, and tend to other things to "set the table" for the next bishop.

The details of the next steps in the process of selecting my successor will be shared in the coming weeks by the Standing Committee.

Let us hold one another in prayer as we enter this season of transition, trusting that God is with us and will continue to guide the Diocese of Wisconsin.

Under the Mercy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "+ Matthew Gunter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter | XII Bishop of Wisconsin