

FILED
09-28-2026
Clerk of Circuit Court
Washington County, WI
2026CF000598
Honorable Grant D. Scaife
Branch 2

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	WASHINGTON COUNTY
STATE OF WISCONSIN	DA Case No.: 2026WA002851 Assigned DA/ADA: Barry Braatz Agency Case No.: 26-038647 Court Case No.:	
Plaintiff,		
vs.		
Heng F Lin [REDACTED]		CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
West Bend, WI 53095 DOB: 01/09/1976 Sex/Race: M/A		
Defendant,		

For Official Use

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: ARSON OF PROPERTY OTHER THAN BUILDING

The above-named defendant on Friday, September 25, 2026, in the City of West Bend, Washington County, Wisconsin, by means of fire, did intentionally damage the property (other than a building) of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, valued at \$100 or more, without that person's consent, contrary to sec. 943.03, 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 2: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY

The above-named defendant on Friday, September 25, 2026, in the City of West Bend, Washington County, Wisconsin, did intentionally cause damage to any personal property contained in any property identified under subs. 943.012(1) to (3), without consent, and with knowledge of the character of the property, and the personal property had particular significance or value to any group of persons of a particular religion and the actor knew the personal property has particular significance or value to that group of persons of a particular religion and the actor knew the personal property has particular significance or value to that group, contrary to sec. 943.012(4), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

Count 3: DISORDERLY CONDUCT

The above-named defendant on Friday, September 25, 2026, in the City of West Bend, Washington County, Wisconsin, while in a private or public place, did engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct, under circumstances in which the conduct tended to cause or provoke a disturbance, contrary to sec. 947.01(1), 939.51(3)(b) Wis. Stats., a Class B Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), or imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days, or both.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Complainant prays that said defendant be dealt with according to law. Complainant is a sworn officer with the West Bend Police Department and bases their information upon information and belief, and review of official police reports prepared by fellow sworn law enforcement officers.

Ofc. Voll of the City of West Bend Police Department reports that on September 25, 2026, at approximately 10:22 a.m., he was on duty, when he responded to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, located at 462 Meadowbrook Dr., in the City of West Bend, Washington County, Wisconsin, for a report of an Asian male inside the church trying to light a cross on fire.

Upon arrival at approximately 10:25 a.m., Ofc. Voll made contact with Pilgrim Lutheran Church Pastor, JF, and organist, BG. Pastor JF advised that a single male had entered the church a short time ago and used a cigarette lighter to partially burn the church's new hand-carved processional crucifix, located next to the pulpit at the sanctuary at the front of the church. Pastor JG advised that there appeared to be no active fire. Pastor JF advised that the suspect had left the church building and was last seen by neighboring residents walking toward the rear of Chinatown Kitchen, located nearby at 1446 W. Washington St.

Ofc. Voll also made contact with a male, DB, of Meadowbrook Manor public housing apartment building, located directly across the roadway from Pilgrim Lutheran Church. DB advised that he had been outside of Meadowbrook Manor with other residents shortly before the call. DB advised that he observed an adult Asian male walking around the outside of Pilgrim Lutheran Church a short time earlier. DB advised he had seen the same male outside the church in the recent past. DB stated that approximately one week prior he observed the male touching or hitting on the large, round church sign, mounted on the outside east wall of the church. DB stated that on this date, he observed the male walking back and forth in the south parking lot outside the church, and then at some point, DB lost sight of the male. DB stated the male then emerged into view in the south parking lot a short time later. DB stated the male walked from the church property, south toward W. Washington St. DB stated the male then walked behind the short strip mall, which included the Chinatown Kitchen restaurant.

Ofc. Voll spoke with JW, a residence of Meadowbrook Manor. JW advised that he observed the male walk away from Pilgrim Lutheran Church toward Chinatown Kitchen, and observe the male open the lid of the bright green waste collection bin, behind the strig mall and it appeared as though the male had discarded something in the waste collection bin.

DB and JW advised the male appeared to be an Asian male in his 50s, approximately 5'09", medium build and wearing a light blue shirt, dark colored pants, and black sandals.

Ofc. Voll reports he spoke with Pastor JF, organist BG, and fire department personnel inside the church. Pastor JF advised that the bottom portion of Jesus hanging on the cross had been burned and damaged. Pastor JF advised that fire personnel had taken the processional cross to the church kitchen area to douse it with water, to ensure it was no longer burning or a fire hazard.

Ofc. Voll spoke with BG who advised that he arrived at Pilgrim Lutheran Church at approximately 3:29 a.m., to practice organ for a special event. BG stated he entered the

church using the north doorway, as that was the only door he had a key for. BG stated he believed the door closed and latched in the lock position. BG stated he left the building at approximately 4:40 a.m. to go to a local gas station, and returned to the building at approximately 5:00 a.m. to continue practice. BG stated he was the only person inside the church throughout the morning, and all doors should have been locked.

BG further advised that at approximately 10:00 a.m., he had been up in the organ balcony located to the rear of and above the nave, packing his belongings to get ready to leave the church. BG stated that while up on the balcony, he observed someone walk up the center aisle of the nave, between the two columns of pews to the sanctuary. BG originally believed the person was there to perform cleaning duty for the church. BG stated the male walked up to the location of the processional cross. The male then produced a cigarette lighter, ignited the flame, and held the flame to the bottom of the Corpus of Jesus Christ on the Cross. BG stated the male made two separate attempts to burn the Corpus.

BG stated the male then stopped his attempt to burn the crucifix, and walked away from the sanctuary. BG stated the male walked along west side of the nave, toward the rear of the church. BG stated the male stopped just before walking under the organ balcony and looked up in BG's direction. BG stated he is unsure if the male saw him. BG stated the male did not say anything to BG, and BG did not say anything to the male. BG stated he was concerned the male would go up the stairway to the balcony where he was located and attack him. BG stated the male continued to the back of the church, and it sounded as if the male exited using the south doorway.

BG advised that he did not recognize the male, nor did he see the male after BG exited the church. BG stated he did not know how the male got into the church or how long the male had been inside of the church.

Pastor BF stated the value of the entire processional crucifix was approximately \$1500.00, and the value of the Corpus of Jesus Christ on the Cross was approximately \$500.00. Pastor BF advised that the processional crucifix was new and had only been installed in church a few weeks prior. Upon information and belief, neither Pastor BF, nor anyone associated with Pilgrim Lutheran Church, consented to the male damaging the crucifix and/or Corpus of Jesus Christ. Upon information and belief, the crucifix and Corpus of Jesus Christ have particular significance or value to Lutherans and/or Christians.

Ofc. Pollard of the City of West Bend Police Department reports that he was provided a description of the suspect and that the suspect was believed to be at Chinatown Kitchen restaurant, located at 1442 W. Washington St., in the City of West Bend. Ofc. Pollard, Det. Bateman and Det. Otte, responded to Chinatown Kitchen restaurant. and made contact with a staff member of a neighboring business, who advised the rear door to Chinatown Kitchen is usually open and pointed out a second floor residence behind the business is where the family resided.

Ofc. Pollard reports Det. Bateman made contact with a male inside the back of the business. Ofc. Pollard reports the male matched the description of the suspect he had previously received. The male was identified as HENG FU LIN, hereinafter referred to as the defendant. Det. Bateman reports he attempted to speak with the defendant. Family members of the defendant arrived on scene and attempted to assist in translating. The defendant's niece

attempted to translate for a conversation between the defendant and Det. Bateman. Det. Bateman reports the defendant kept pointing towards the area of the church while talking with the defendant's niece. The defendant's niece stated the defendant kept saying those people were bothering him.

The defendant was taken into custody and on his person, Ofc. Pollard located four lighters. The defendant was transported to the Washington County Jail.

Lt. Lichtensteiger reports he responded to the scene as well. Lt. Lichtensteiger checked the dumpster where it was reported the defendant may have discarded items. Lt. Lichtensteiger reports he observed a booklet that was torn into several pieces. The top right corner of the cover had the words "biblical" "to" and a word ending it "Its". Lt. Lichtensteiger reports he then responded to the church and located a booklet rack out for display. The style of booklet, "A Biblical Response to" matched, however, Lt. Lichtensteiger was unable to find the exact match of the booklet in the dumpster. Lt. Lichtensteiger reports he inquired with the pastor if there were any of the series missing, and the pastor acknowledged there were. Lt. Lichtensteiger was shown the stock of extra booklets and found the matching, "A Biblical Response to Cults" booklet that the church would have had out.

At the West Bend Police Department, Det. Bateman attempted an interview of the defendant using a mobile translation application. Det. Bateman reports that while reading the defendant the Advice and Waiver Form, the defendant made a comment about burning the feet of Jesus. Det. Bateman reports the defendant indicated he understood his rights and signed the Advice and Waiver Form. Det. Bateman reports the defendant was delayed in answering several of Det. Bateman's questions. The defendant did mention being Jesus at one point and talked about Jesus's alter ego putting drugs in his house.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 09/28/26

Electronically Signed By:

Nick J Daniels

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1131354

Electronically Signed By:

Detective Brandon Knepprath

Complainant