

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

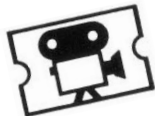
December 13, 2020—The Third Sunday of Advent

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005
www.standrewlutheran.com; 503-646-0629

Worship Services:
Sunday, 8:30 am
Sunday, 11:00 am

Our church community is OPEN and gathering ONLINE and BY TELEPHONE. We welcome you to meet up with us there!
For your safety and to protect the most vulnerable, access to the church building remains HIGHLY RESTRICTED.

December Movie Night



Have you watched the classic film, *A Christmas Carol*, yet this season? If not, do so yet today and then join other St. Andrew people for our first Movie Night tonight, **Friday, December 11**, at 7:00 pm. We'll talk about the classic, which you can find in no less than 20 versions. Some are old black and white classics from as far back as 1938, some are animated, some are modern interpretations, as recent as 2020. You can stream many different versions on Amazon, some for free, some for a small rental fee. Or you may have your own favorite DVD of this classic at home. It will be fun to compare highlights with each other, as well as reflect on this beautiful story of redemption. This will also be a time to make suggestions for films for future movie nights.



You'll find the Zoom link for our first Movie Night in today's "Weekly News" e-mail.

Mary Smith

Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays

During Advent, St. Andrew's Wednesday evening services will center around the beloved Holden Evening Prayer, with Julie Aageson offering meditations from her new book, *Finding Home*. Please join us for any or all of these events on **Wednesday, December 16, and December 23**:

- 6:30 pm: Informal Gathering Time
- 7:00 pm: Holden Evening Prayer
- 7:30 pm: Centering Prayer & Other Opportunities

Advent offers the perfect opportunity to engage in Centering Prayer as we sit in silence to await the celebration of Christ's coming.

The Zoom connection link is sent out Wednesday afternoons, so watch your inbox for it.

Adult Education: The Miseries of Job



Steve Christiansen will continue his exploration of the Book of Job at 10:00 am on **Sunday, December 13**, with Session 7. You'll find a course outline on St. Andrew's website and can access the class using the same Zoom link needed for Sunday worship.

An incorrect translation has led us to believe that Job was a patient man. Not so, Christiansen explains, but he was persistent and he kept going in spite of the odds. Job's story is relevant for our time in that it raises many questions about the suffering of the innocent.

Christmas Giving Tree



St. Andrew is doing a Giving Tree for needy families with children enrolled at Barnes Elementary again this year. Like all of us, these parents yearn to make the holidays sparkle for their children, and we can help.

Just as we did with Thanksgiving Boxes, we'll be providing gift cards in 2020, giving parents the opportunity to shop for what their families need most. You can donate to the cause by sending a check made out to St. Andrew with Giving Tree in the memo line. If you prefer to give electronically, select "Give" on the menu bar of St. Andrew's website, then "Click here to give now." Once you've signed in to your account, select the green "Give" button and then choose the fund "Christmas Giving Tree."

Questions? Please call Donna Bocker at 503-502-6156. And read about the challenges one family is facing below:

One Family's Story

Diana and her daughters just moved into their new apartment. It is a great relief for them after months of living in a shelter for abused women. Diana's challenges in raising her daughters—ages 17 and 8—are complicated by her diabetes. Just about a month ago, she had to have one of her legs amputated as a result of her illness. Fortunately, her older daughter can drive and has been a big help as she adjusts. Diana continues to be troubled by pain and the challenges of shopping. As for so many families in need this year, Diana's Christmas wish is that she'll have enough food for herself and her girls. As she re-starts her life, food is her family's most basic need. Full stomachs are a great comfort in uncertain times.

Thank You!

Donna Bocker, who organizes the Giving Tree, meets with the families, and scrambles to meet their needs, joins all the Barnes families she's reached out to this year in thanking you for your heartfelt help in continuing and expanding this ministry. By sharing your resources, you're demonstrating God's love in this world. Thank you, all!

Worship Connection Problems



St. Andrew's tech team is offering a new service on Sundays for anyone having difficulty connecting to worship. Between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm, you can simply call the church office at 503-646-0629 to get help from the pros. Remember that Rebecca Fako Uecker also continues to offer technical help for church-related purposes. You can contact her at RLS.HOPE@yahoo.com.

Foundation Core Values, Part 2

Your St. Andrew Foundation adopted six core values at our recent strategic planning retreat. These are fundamental principles that guide the Foundation's activities and decision-making. This week, we highlight three of these core values:

COMPASSIONATE/CARING: We are compassionate and caring in all that we do, aligning with the core values: God care, Earth care, community care, neighbor care, and self care.

ACCOUNTABILITY: We are transparent, we acknowledge gifts and we communicate our efforts with the congregation. We will regularly monitor that we are being inclusive and acting within our Christian values.

PARTNERSHIPS: We are partnering with the congregation and other organizations in the community to provide for the well-being of individuals and the community as a whole.

Did you know that last year the Foundation awarded \$5,550 in grants (to four organizations) and \$2,300 in scholarships (to four individuals)? We are actively seeking new members for our Board of Directors as we carry out our core values and vision.

Are you interested in learning more? Contact Sonja Ackman: sonya.ackman@gmail.com.

Advent Devotional

Allison Katsufakis, Libby Calhoun, and Deacon Susan Reiser have created a family friendly devotional for every day in Advent. There is an Advent wreath to color as the weeks progress. For each day of the season, there is a picture to color, a scripture passage, and a suggestion for an action to take in your home. The scripture passages come from a variety of sources, so even if you think you know the story you might discover new insights. Take some time during this busy season to pause and reflect on the gift of the Word made flesh. Visit the St. Andrew website to find the Advent Devotional: <https://standrewlutheran.com/worship/>.



Pastor Mark Brocker (on call Fridays & Saturdays)
office: 503-646-0629 (extension 201)
cell: 503-502-8762
brockerms@standrewlutheran.com

Pastor Robyn Hartwig (on call Sundays & Mondays)
Office: 503-646-0629 (extension 211)
PastorRobyn@standrewlutheran.com

*Both pastors are on call
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.*

Caroling in 2020

One thing we look forward to every December is the opportunity to sing Christmas Carols to those in our congregation unable to join us for worship and other activities. But, this year, of course, the pandemic means we're unable to visit people in person.

In order to fill that gap, the three sisters—Carol Werner, Susan Werner Reiser, and Kristie Werner Gladhill—have created a short recording of our favorite carols. We hope they are your favorites, too.

The recording is available on the St. Andrew website:

- Option 1: www.standrewlutheran.com >
on the first slide titled "Advent & Christmas,"
click on "Read More" at the top
- Option 2: www.standrewlutheran.com >
in the navigation bar at the top,
click on "Worship:"



Christmas Week Worship

Sunday, December 20, 4:30 pm: Blue Christmas Service (via Zoom)

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or ready to celebrate. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment and loss are magnified, especially during a pandemic. As we enter into the longest night of the year, join us at sunset for a Blue Christmas worship service in the St. Andrew worship/community Zoom room. Then, if you'd like to share in some conversation with our caring ministers and Pastor Robyn, just bring your own tea or hot apple cider and stick around afterwards to talk.

Sunday, December 20, 7:00 pm: Advent/Christmas Vespers (online)

Birthday Party for Jesus!

For a family-focused celebration, please join us at 4:00 pm on Thursday, December 24, via Zoom for a special Birthday Party for Jesus. We'll be featuring carols, games, and a visit from our favorite furry friends! Families are encouraged to dress for the occasion, whether in ugly Christmas sweaters or with party hats and balloons! Plus, we'll be giving a special birthday gift to Jesus by doing something nice for others. If you'd like to contribute to this gift, you can do so online via the church website or by mailing a check to the church; just make sure to mark it for the Birthday Party for Jesus. Keep an eye out for the Zoom link for this event in the "Worship Links" e-mail the week of Christmas Eve.



WORSHIP ON THE EVE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH

Thursday, December 24

6:45 pm, Musical Prelude
7:00 pm, Candlelight Service
(livestreamed and recorded)



Friday, December 25, Stay Home, but Not Alone!, 1:00-4:00 pm on Zoom

1:00 pm: Christmas Social Time—share your favorite Christmas stories.
2:00 pm: Games—join Scott Taylor, Pastor Robyn, and Janet Parker for hilarious fun.
3:00 pm: Show & Tell—share your favorite gift or play us a Christmas song.
Anytime: Notify Rebecca Fako Uecker to be assigned a Zoom breakout room where you can meet with family or friends to support one another in **Staying Home to Save Lives** (fallpryncess@me.com).

Managing Your Mental Health During an Unusual Holiday Season

Many of us have found it particularly challenging to manage our own mental health as the pandemic continues, holiday plans are changed, and life as we knew it seems farther and farther away. The Caring Ministries Team recommends a series of articles found on the website for Mental Health USA. This week, take a look at their suggestions for maintaining your own mental health during this unusual holiday season:

<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>

Take some time this week to work on one of St. Andrew's Core Values: Self Care.

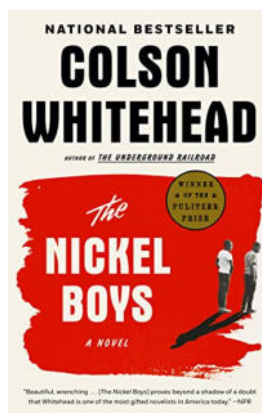
St. Andrew Caring Ministries Team

Writing to Reclaim Our Vote

Thank you to Carol Horton, who coordinated St. Andrew volunteers in another round of postcard writing with "Reclaim Our Vote," a 501(c)(3) nonprofit working to help disenfranchised voters know how they can exercise their right to vote. Thank you also to all of those who worked with Carol to put faith into action, including Sharon Fako, Joel & Beth Johnson, Donna McAlpine, Fran Miller, Jan Smith, Sue Cahlander, Larry & Bonnie Blesner, Liz Hardy, Bob & Cindy Stadel, and Karen Zocchi. Their collective efforts generated 500 postcards that were sent to Georgia this week! Let me know if you would like to be added to the list of people willing to write postcards in the future.

Pastor Robyn

Spirituality Book Group News



Fran Miller will lead the discussion when the Spirituality Book Group meets on Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 pm to discuss *The Nickel Boys*, by Colson Whitehead. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2020.

"Based on the real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children, *The Nickel Boys* is a devastating, driven narrative that showcases a great American novelist writing at the height of his powers," says one review on Amazon.

A Zoom link will be sent out to all who are on the Spirituality Book Group e-mail list a few days before the meeting. If you are not on the list, but would like to attend, please contact Mary Smith.

Future Reading

January (Date TBA)

Book: *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, by Jennifer Boylan
Discussion Leader: TBA

February (Date TBA)

Book: *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Discussion Leader: TBA

Meet the Match for EcoFaith Recovery

EcoFaith Recovery has been offered a \$2,000 year-end matching grant that will match every first-time donation, the amount of increase of any annual donation, and/or the one-year value of any monthly sustaining donation that you set up before December 31. Your generous gifts help EcoFaith Recovery fund this year's "Just Vote Harnessing Our Values for Climate and Racial Justice Initiative" and our "Community Carbon" pilot community initiative. Thank you so much for helping EcoFaith meet the match with your generous donations to

www.EcoFaithRecovery.org/Give

or EcoFaith Recovery, P.O. Box 12612, Portland, OR 97212.

With gratitude,
Pastor Robyn Hartwig

Scouting for Food

Due to good organization, planning, and commitment, members of St. Andrew's Scout Troop 618 and 5618 collected 1,723 pounds of food for the Food Bank at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on December 5. Almost 50 Scouts and leaders participated, accompanied by several siblings and even a couple of dogs. Thank you!

Sound Investments

As equipment has reached the end of its useful life, the sound system in St. Andrew's Sanctuary has gone through various upgrades in recent years in an attempt to make the spoken word more understandable throughout the room.

- 2010: We switched from lapel microphones to earloops to reduce feedback problems.
- 2013: We replaced the amplifier and crossover to further reduce potential feedback and to equalize amplified voice sound in the room.
- 2016: We replaced the speakers to distribute sound better into pews beyond the center of the room. This also finally opened up the top of the tapestry to full view. (project cost—\$7,800)
- 2017-2019: We replaced all wireless microphones due to changes made to the wireless spectrum by the FCC. (cost—\$2,000+)



And, in just the past few weeks, Chris Weiss spent about 15 hours installing new wiring and setting up a new (currently borrowed) soundboard, aka mixer, in the Sound Room. As Weiss explains, "Probably the biggest factor that has stopped us from replacing the mixer until recently was that it would require someone to sit at the board for the entirety of both services every Sunday morning." And that's a big commitment!

But our needs and expectations for the audio mixer shifted once the pandemic forced St. Andrew to stream its services. Now, we need to mic things that don't need amplification when we worship in-person, namely the organ, piano, bells, and vocalist. And, when we move back to in-person worship, we'll also need to mic the congregation and the choir to provide as full an experience as possible for those who continue to worship from their homes.

As Weiss explains, "On any given Sunday before the pandemic, we were only mixing 4-5 microphones, whereas I am now using 16 channels on the new mixer." He anticipates using 20-24 channels when in-person worship resumes.

In Need of Prayer...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Family and friends of Larry Mostaert (cousin)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Robyn Hartwig
Alvina Heidinger (mother-in-law)	Peace and comfort in hospice care	Judy Heidinger
Carol Hogan	Accurate diagnosis and effective treatment	Carol Hogan
Dr. Cara Steinkeler	Strength and protection	Gary & Gail Grafwallner
Gary Grafwallner	Successful surgery (Dec. 16) for facial skin cancer	Gary Grafwallner
All those struggling with mental health challenges	Healing and calm	Staff
Everyone affected by COVID-19	Strength and support	Staff
Health care workers	Strength, courage, protection, and support	Staff
U.S. election officials, volunteers, and support staff working to ensure free and fair elections	Safety and protection	Staff
St. Andrew Council	Wisdom and discernment	Staff
Executive Committee		
Staff		
Karen Klingelhafer, Kyler Vogt, and all seminarians	Encouragement and support	Staff
India Jensen Kerr and all theology students		
St. Andrew Foundation	Blessings on their ministry	Staff
Atonement Lutheran Church (Newport, OR)	Serving with us in the Oregon Synod	Staff
Faith Lutheran Church (North Bend, OR)		
Congregation Kesser Israel (Portland, OR)	Blessings on our interfaith partners	Staff

If you know someone in need of prayers, please contact the church office by phone at 503-646-0629 or e-mail office@standrewlutheran.com Tuesday-Friday, prayerchain@standrewlutheran.com Saturday-Monday.

Let's Talk, Let's Listen Reboot

Last summer, the St. Andrew MACG Core Team organized a listening campaign, encouraging members to make phone calls to people we missed seeing at church. Now that this unusual holiday season has arrived, and the colder weather prevents outdoor gatherings, it's time to check in once again. Look for details in early January about how to be a part of this reboot.

In the meantime, please let the Core Team know how we can improve the program. Contact any of us – Pat Christiansen, Larry Bliesner, Scott Taylor, Bob Stadel, Victoria Kovalenko, Lynn Santelmann, or Pastor Robyn – if you have any feedback.

A Thanksgiving Thank You

Thanks to the generous donations of St. Andrew members, we were able to raise \$3,921 to purchase grocery gift certificates for needy families identified by Washington County Community Action. Your gifts are truly appreciated! Thank you.

The Service Committee



Greeting Cards Redux

Many thanks for both the used and the unused greeting cards put into the collection box in Fellowship Hall. I have turned many used cards into gift tags and gift bags. The unused cards are matched with envelopes and sent on to bless both senders and receivers. Thank you for recycling!

Pam Meredith

Editor's Note:

If you'd like to contribute to Pam's Card Ministry while the pandemic continues to keep the church doors locked, simply drop them off at the Narthex entrance. You'll find a bin behind the food collection barrel. We'll make sure Pam continues to be well-stocked with cards.

Your St. Andrew Staff

Lead Pastor, Mark Brocker	brockerms@standrewlutheran.com
Associate Pastor, Robyn Hartwig	pastorrobyn@standrewlutheran.com
Min. of Music, Allison Katsufakis	allisonk@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Musician & Deacon Susan Reiser	srwerner.reiser@standrewlutheran.com
Children & Youth Ministry Coord., Kyler Vogt	kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
Seminarian, Karen Klingelhafer	kakling@sbcglobal.net
Parish Manager, Jennifer Trom	jtrom@standrewlutheran.com
Office Manager, Carol Harker	office@standrewlutheran.com
Housekeeper, Carol Hogan	503-646-0629
Evening Facility Manager, Brad Barclay	503-646-0629
Sunday School Director, Lisa Staul	sundayschool@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Nurses, Diane Reiner	503-201-4222
Tira Nessel	503-866-5099

Preparing for Next Sunday

December 20, 2020

Reading: Luke 1:46b-55

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 13, Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am	Livestream Worship	listen/watch via telephone or online
9:30 am	Virtual Coffee Time	participate via Zoom
10:00 am	Sunday School	via Zoom
10:00 am	Confirmation Class	via Zoom
10:00 am	High School Youth Group	via Zoom
10:00 am	Adult Education: The Book of Job	via Zoom
11:00 am	Online Worship	participate via Zoom
12:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Time	participate via Zoom

Monday, December 14

7:00 pm	Men's Book Club	via Zoom
---------	-----------------------	----------

Tuesday, December 15

10:00 am	T'ai Chi	former Bales Thriftway on Cornell Rd.
10:00 am	Worship Planners Meeting	via Zoom
12:15 pm	Community Carbon Leadership Meeting	via Zoom

Wednesday, December 16—Weekly News submissions due by 4:00 pm

5:45 pm	Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 pm	Informal Gathering Time	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Wednesday Evening Prayer	via Zoom
7:00 pm	High School Youth Hangout	via Zoom
7:30 pm	Centering Prayer & Other Breakout Room Opportunities	via Zoom

Thursday, December 17

12:00 pm	Team Ministry Meeting	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Council Meeting	via Zoom

Friday, December 18

10:00 am	T'ai Chi	former Bales Thriftway on Cornell Rd.
----------	----------------	---------------------------------------

Sunday, December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am	Livestream Worship	listen/watch via telephone or online
9:30 am	Virtual Coffee Time	participate via Zoom
10:00 am	Sunday School	via Zoom
10:00 am	Confirmation Class	via Zoom
10:00 am	High School Youth Group	via Zoom
10:00 am	Adult Education: The Book of Job	via Zoom
11:00 am	Online Worship	participate via Zoom
12:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Time	participate via Zoom
4:30 pm	Blue Christmas Service	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Advent/Christmas Vespers	watch online

Connecting to Worship at St. Andrew

8:30 am: Watch the livestream of worship on YouTube. *The link will be sent to you via e-mail and the church app.*



- The same link will bring you to the recording of the service to watch anytime after the livestream ends.
- If you have a Facebook account and are a member of the "St. Andrew Lutheran Church Beaverton" Facebook Group, please note that a link to the YouTube livestream will be posted on Sunday mornings.
- An audio recording of the 8:30 am service will be available Sunday afternoon by simply dialing 503-643-9416.



11:00 am: Participate in worship via Zoom. *The link will be sent to you via e-mail and the church app.*

To participate via "Zoom" you can use a computer, smart phone, tablet, or a telephone.

office@standrewlutheran.com: Not getting church e-mails? Contact the office to receive the livestreaming worship link and Zoom invitations.

Ways to Give: Thank you for supporting our ministries!

As we maintain social distancing for physical health, it is important to support the fiscal health of St. Andrew. We thank you for your support of the ministries of St. Andrew. If you are able, please give now using any of the following options:

Postal Mail

Simply mail a check to the church office. Let us know if you'd like giving envelopes mailed to your home each month by calling 503-646-0629 or e-mailing office@standrewlutheran.com.

Text Giving

Text 503-386-9646 with the amount you wish to give. You can give a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation. Text "funds" to receive a list of funds.

NEW! Church App (<https://app.ministryone.com/landing/nBv>)

The newest way to stay connected—and to give—is by using St. Andrew's new church app! Download "Church by Ministry One" from the App Store and use it to watch St. Andrew videos, submit a prayer request, and give a one-time or recurring gift.



Online at www.standrewlutheran.com

Click on "Give Now" on the church website. You can also view your giving and print your Contribution Statements here.

Direct Deposit / "Simply Giving"

Request a form from the [church office](#) to enable automated giving from your checking or savings account through the "Simply Giving" program.

Stock Transfer

The required form is available through the church office or website and should be submitted at the [beginning](#) of the process. See article on page 3 for more information.

Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. Andrew!

Need Help?

If you discover that you need help connecting to St. Andrew's online worship services and meetings, please e-mail Rebecca Fako Uecker at RLS.HOPE@yahoo.com. She will be available by 9:30 am on Sunday mornings and 5:30 pm on Wednesday evenings to provide same-day help for church-related purposes.

Highlights from the Finance Team as of 11/30/2020

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Report Report Date: 12/3/20

Thank you for your continued support for the ministries of St Andrew

Giving is at 87% budget YTD; 106% November 2020

In November we made Principal Only payments of \$32,000 toward the Mortgage.

The Service Committee has several Special Projects they are targeting. See Weekly News for details.

Thank you for your patience waiting for reimbursements during the COVID restrictions.

Video streaming services are attended by people via Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom.

Monthly Attendance & Giving

Date	YouTube	Zoom/ Call In	Total Service Attendance	M&M Fund Monthly Total (Regular + Electronic)	Mortgage Fund Offering
Sunday Average	218	132	350		
Monthly Total	1090	662	1752	\$54,645	\$ 21,443

To meet Budget \$54,000 \$ 12,732

3 Main Funds: Current Status

Ministry & Mission (M & M) Fund	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	The M & M Fund supports the general operations of the church, including worship supplies, education supplies, synod
Giving FY20-21	\$ 268,833	\$ 234,787	
Expenses FY20-21	\$ 279,964	\$ 233,542	

Mortgage Fund	Actual Giving YtD	Actual Expense YtD	Balance on Hand	Balance Due on Mortgage	Monthly Mortgage Payment
Giving FY20-21	\$ 112,581		\$ 79,840	\$919,073	\$ 12,732
Expense FY 20-21		\$ 63,660	Mortgage Fund holds contributions designated to pay mortgage and payments to Capital Campaign (A Hope for All)		
FYTD Principal Only Payments		\$ 96,600			

Designated Funds	Actual Giving	Balance on Hand	Designated Funds support many different ministries such as Local Benevolence, Community Garden, WELCA, disaster relief, etc.
Total Designated Funds FY20-21		\$ 78,728	
PIPE Fund		\$ 24,944	
COVID Hunger Relief Balance		\$ 1,935	
Family Promise		\$ 2,800	
Christmas Giving Tree		\$ 1,915	
ECE loan balance from Designated	\$18,272		

*Includes \$9,900 for Wetlands Improvements

Average online worship attendance is determined by ELCA guidance:

(# of devices) X 2 = Online Worship Attendance

Finance Team: Johanna Au; Gretchen Bancroft; Bill Beavers; Brian Cheney; Joel Johnson;
Anne Newell; Ted Miller; Tammy Piscitelli; Tracie Brooks-Semenchalam