

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

December 10, 2023

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005

Worship Service:
Sunday, 9:30 am

www.standrewlutheran.com ■ Telephone: 503-646-0629

Barnes School Christmas Giving Tree



The Service Committee extends an enthusiastic thank you to everyone who took tags from our Giving Tree to help Barnes Elementary School families enjoy a happier Christmas this year! Please remember that gift cards must be returned to church no later than **Sunday, December 10**, so that cards can be delivered to school that week.

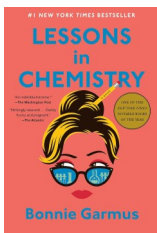
A few tags still need to be claimed—and it's not too late to contribute online or write a check if you'd prefer to offer a cash donation in support of these families. (If you're unable to drop off your gifts by this weekend's deadline, please contact Amy Peahl at amyklinepeahl@gmail.com.) Donated funds will provide each family with a WinCo gift card to buy food for a holiday meal.

All children and families can be uplifted by expressions of God's love at this holy time of year. Regardless of individual beliefs, life is precious. Thank you for helping needy parents make the season more joyful for the whole family!

Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet at 3:00 pm on **Sunday, December 10**, to discuss the novel *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion that will be led by Elaine May at Mary Smith's home.

This novel is "irresistible, satisfying and full of fuel" (*The New York Times Book Review*) and "witty, sometimes hilarious ... the *Catch-22* of early feminism" (Stephen King, via Twitter).



Details:

December 10, *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
Hostess: Mary Smith
Discussion Leader: Elaine May

Future Reading:

January 21, *A Mountain of Crumbs*, by Elena Gorokhova
Hostess: Fran Miller
Discussion Leader: Peggy Thompson

February, *The Leavers*, by Lisa Ko

March, *A Tale for the Time Being*, by Ruth Ozeki

Discussion Leader: Mary Smith

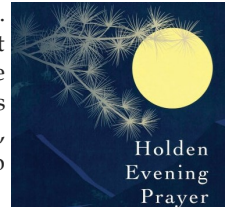
April, *We Have Always Been Here*, by Samra Habib

Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA?

In the ELCA, do black churches really matter? What are some of the struggles they face? Pastor Lenny Duncan spoke to bishops, church leaders, and members across the country for two videos titled *Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA*. Sister India continues her Adult Ed class at 11:00 am on Sunday in Fellowship Hall. How could we better support our siblings in Christ? This is the second session of a three-week class.

The Season of Advent

We have now entered the season of Advent. It is here that God's church is called to light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. As the Christian new year begins, we join hands and enter the darkness, actively waiting, singing, and praying anew for God's light to overwhelm the world.



Mid-week Advent worship services will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays, with meditations by members of the congregation on the themes of:

December 13: Prepare (Steve Christiansen)

December 20: Ponder (LuAnn Staul)

The 30-minute worship service will begin at 7:00 pm in the Chapel and will also be available via Zoom.

Advent Devotional: The Dawn Chorus



Week Two of Advent
The Bluebird of Peace
Matthew 25:31-40

The congregation is invited to enrich the season of Advent with a new devotional from SALT. Pick up "The Dawn Chorus" at the entrance to the Sanctuary and initiate a weekly devotion as we prepare for the birth of the Christ child. The devotional comes in two parts: a booklet and a sheet of ornaments to cut out and decorate.

Once again, the creators at SALT give us a new perspective on an age-old tradition. What can we learn from our fellow creatures who begin their day by bravely singing into the dark? The cardinal, bluebird, sparrow, hen, and dove each represent one of the themes of Advent and remind us that we're all God's creatures.

SoulCollage®

Join Sister India on **Saturday, December 9**, 1:00–4:00 pm, in Fellowship Hall. You will make a collage from magazine images on 8x5 cards. The purpose of SoulCollage® is for people to "discover their unique inner/outer guides and challengers, and access their own wisdom to answer their life questions." If you want more information you can go to: <https://soulcollage.com/>

Don't worry if you are not a skilled artist; this is a place where you can join in community, have fun, and access your inner wisdom!



Godspeed to Scott Taylor

For nine years, Scott Taylor has been a fixture at St. Andrew. He joined our community when Light of Life Lutheran closed in 2014 and has played many leadership roles since.



Some may remember when Scott recruited his bagpiping buddy to lead a group of advocates for immigrant justice around the Washington County Courthouse. This was at a time when ICE agents were arresting anyone they thought might be an immigrant upon entering the building.

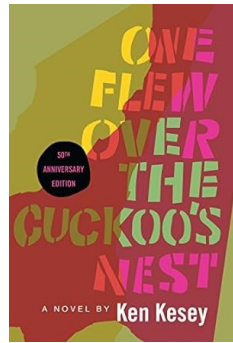
Scott was a founding member of the Sanctuary Team at St. Andrew, served on the Facilities Team, MACG, and Family Promise Teams, was elected Council President three times, volunteered to work in the sound room when we began to offer remote worship during the pandemic, was hired as Evening Facility Caretaker, and did countless tasks behind the scenes to keep our building cared for and operational.

Worshippers have seen Scott in his role as worship assistant for years and he enjoyed being a Eucharistic minister, as well as delivering Christmas centerpieces to shut-ins during COVID.

Although Scott is moving back to Des Moines to help care for his aging mother, he's keeping his membership at St. Andrew and will continue to interact with us as an occasional Zoom host. If you'd like to wish him well, please come to Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm on **Sunday, December 10**, and bring a snack to share if you like.

Godspeed, Scott! We will miss you.

Men's Book Group

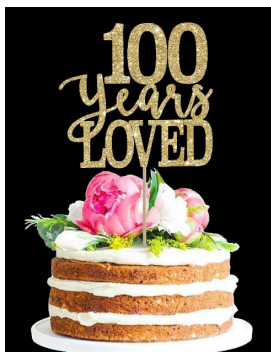


Larry Bliesner is hosting the Men's Book Group this coming Monday, December 11, at 7:00 pm at his home. The book to be discussed is Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, copyright 1962. Milosh Forman directed the Academy Award-winning movie of the same name in 1975.

According to Amazon's description, "the searing American classic...[is] boisterous, ribald and ultimately shattering,...turning notions of sanity and insanity on their heads."

Celebrating Her 100th Birthday

Loretta Stroud celebrates her first three-digit birthday on **Wednesday, December 20**, and her family is planning a get-together to celebrate the event. The party will be held in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm, so if you're planning to attend Wednesday Evening Prayer in the Chapel that evening, you're just steps away from stopping by to wish Loretta a Happy 100th Birthday!



Advent and Christmas Schedule

SoulCollage®, December 9

An Adult Education workshop with Sister India
1:00 pm—4:00 pm, Fellowship Hall



Wednesday Evening Advent Services

7:00 pm, Sanctuary

December 13: Prepare

December 20: Ponder

Christmas Eve Intergenerational Worship, December 24

9:30 am, Sanctuary

Cookie Decorating after Christmas Eve Worship, December 24

10:45 am, Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24

9:00 pm, Sanctuary



Christmas Day Worship, December 25

Pre-recorded on YouTube and available starting at 11:00 am



New Year's Eve Pinochle Party Is BACK!

After a COVID-induced hiatus of three years, St Andrew pinochle enthusiasts will be meeting once again at the home of Don and Mickey Nearhood on... wait for it!... **Sunday, December 31!** We'll gather at 7:00 pm to greet and eat and begin playing promptly at 7:30 pm. The cost is minimal (\$1.00 per person) and you have the chance of going home the winner of BIG BUCKS!



With only 24 slots on the registration board in the Narthex, it's important that people sign up ASAP! Only one name per line and indicate if you will be bringing finger foods or dessert. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. You may bring your own if you have a particular favorite. (Champagne and sparkling cider for the New Year's toast will be provided by your hosts.) You'll find the Nearhoods at 11045 SW Berkshire St; call them at 503-644-0972 if you need directions or you have questions. **PLEASE NOTE: Due to Mickey's seafood allergies, please do not bring any food containing fish or shellfish.** Thank you!

Meet Our New Nursery Attendant

This week, we hired McKenna Baker as our Nursery Attendant. McKenna is a student at PCC and one of her favorite hobbies is choral singing. McKenna comes to us with years of babysitting experience and a love for little children. Our nursery kids and their parents have already met her and love her. She is so excited to be with us at St. Andrew, and we are even more excited to have her! If you see McKenna in the nursery on a Sunday morning, please take a moment to introduce yourself and let her know how grateful we are to have her supporting our youngest families.

Kyler Vogt

A Fortune in Our Backyard

Did you know that the adopted trees in our St. Andrew Forest are valued at more than one million dollars?

Earlier this fall, all 60 adopted trees were measured for diameter and height. These data were submitted for analysis to i-Tree, a not-for-profit, public/private partnership whose global mission is to:



- Quantify the benefits and value of trees;
- Advocate for better tree and forest management;
- Show potential risks to tree and forest health; and
- Assist with environmental justice efforts.

The i-Tree software estimated the value these trees provide in:

- Removing air pollutants;
- Capturing carbon dioxide;
- Storing carbon; and
- Reducing stormwater runoff.

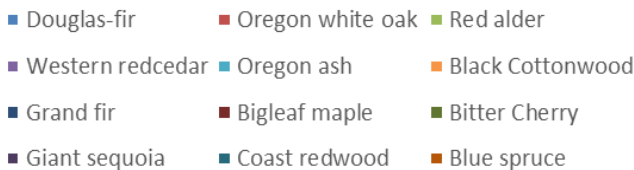
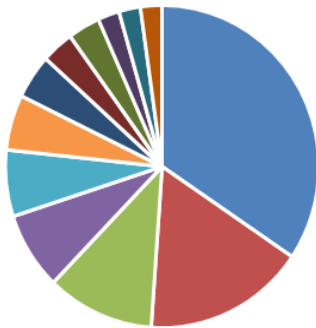
It also figured the cost of replacing the 60 trees.

Of course, not all the value these trees provide can be quantified. No attempt was made to value the use of the forest for worship in the Sanctuary of the Firs, meditation walks, or Earth Camp. Nor was an estimate given for providing a variety of wildlife habitats.

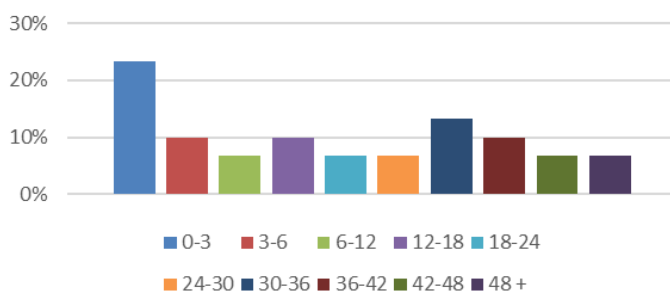
Plus, many more trees are available to be adopted. If you're interested in learning more or adopting a St. Andrew tree, please contact Don Nearhood or any member of the Earth Care Team.

Following are two examples of i-Tree's output. More information can be found at www.itreetools.org.

Percent of trees by species



Percent of trees by diameter class (inches)



Climate Corner: Food Product Dating

Adapted from USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

Confusion over the meaning of dates applied to food products can result in the discarding of wholesome food, which when sent to the landfill creates methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas. In an effort to reduce food waste, it is important to understand that the dates applied to food are for quality, not safety. "Best if Used By" is a type of date you might find on a meat, poultry, or egg product label. Are dates required on these foods? Does it mean the product will be unsafe to use after that date?



Except for infant formula, federal law does not require food to be dated. For meat, poultry, and egg products under the jurisdiction of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), dates may be voluntarily applied provided the labels are truthful and not misleading. Manufacturers provide dating to help consumers and retailers decide when food is of best quality. Except for infant formula, dates are not an indicator of the product's safety and are not required by law. The quality of perishable products may deteriorate after the date passes; however, such products should still be safe if handled properly. It's up to the consumer to look for signs of spoilage.

Except for infant formula, dates are not an indicator of the product's safety and are not required by law. The quality of perishable products may deteriorate after the date passes; however, such products should still be safe if handled properly. It's up to the consumer to look for signs of spoilage.

Date-Labeling Phrases: There are no uniform or universally accepted descriptions used on food labels in the U.S. Consequently, there are a wide variety of phrases used on labels to describe quality dates.

- "Best if Used By/Before" indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is not a safety date.
- "Sell-By" tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- "Use-By" is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except when used on infant formula.
- "Freeze-By" indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality. It is not a safety date.

The USDA estimates that 30% of the food supply is lost or wasted at the retail and consumer levels, partially from consumers and retailers throwing away wholesome food because of confusion about the meaning of dates displayed on the label. Foods not exhibiting signs of spoilage should be wholesome and may be sold, purchased, donated and consumed beyond the labeled "Best if Used By" date. Spoiled foods develop an off odor, flavor, or texture. Do not eat food that has spoiled. A change in the color of meat or poultry is not an indicator of spoilage.

Can codes: These codes enable manufacturers to rotate their stock and locate their products in the event of a recall. Can code dates refer to the date the product was canned. They are not meant to be interpreted as a "Best if Used By" date. Be sure to discard any cans that are dented, rusted, or swollen. High-acid canned foods such as tomatoes and fruits will keep for 12 to 18 months. Whereas low-acid canned foods such as meats and vegetables will keep for 2 to 5 years.



Dates on Egg Cartons: Use of either a “Sell-By” or “Expiration” date is not a federal regulation, but may be required by the egg laws in the state where the eggs are marketed. Some state egg laws do not allow the use of “Sell-By” dates. Many eggs reach stores only a few days after the hen lays them. Egg cartons with the USDA grade shield on them must display the “pack date” (the day the eggs were washed, graded, and placed in the carton). When a “Sell-By” date appears on an egg carton bearing the USDA grade shield, the code date may not exceed 30 days from the pack date.



Food Safety Questions can be answered by calling the USDA Meat & Poultry hotline at 888-674-6854. Or email questions to MPHotline@usda.gov. You can also “AskUSDA” 24 hours a day at AskUSDA.gov.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Many Thanks

Dear St. Andrew Lutheran Church,



Thank you so much for your thoughtful donation of \$450 to support Lutheran Community Services Northwest’s critical mission to bring health, justice, and hope to our commu-

nities. **Hope** is the operative word. Your gift aids us in providing life-affirming services to those in need.

We are passionate about helping our clients find opportunities for growth and improvement. We seek to energize them with the tools they need to thrive. LCSNW works with individuals, families, and communities to face the future with vision, support, and resiliency.

Your generous giving helps us to make this mission a reality. Thank you!

With gratitude,
David Duea
President & CEO

New Library Books

Nonfiction

Daring Greatly – How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead, by Brené Brown

Oh, La, La! Homegrown Stories, Helpful Tips, and Garden Wisdom, by Ciscoe Morris

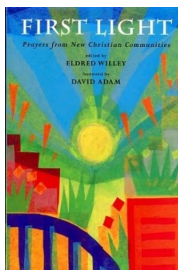
Felicity: Poems, by Mary Oliver

Resilient Reformer: the Life and Thought of Martin Luther, by Derek R. Nelson and Timothy F. Lull

First Light: Prayers from New Christian Communities, by Eldred Willey

Portland, Then & Now,

by Linda Dodds and Carolyn Buan



Fiction

It Can't Happen Here, by Sinclair Lewis

Beneath the Bending Skies, by Jane Kirkpatrick

Wrestling with God: Encountering the Divine in the Hebrew Scriptures

Sister India is one of the instructors offering an eight-week Zoom course beginning January 4, 2024 through the Oregon Synod Lay School of Theology. Like Jacob wrestling with the Divine, class participants will grapple with texts.

What wisdom can we wrestle from these texts to help us live more faithfully? What might we learn, and what might we need to unlearn? We’ll explore names and images for God, including female imagery for the Divine, and offer ways to use this imagery in our spiritual practices. This course will provide opportunities for relationship-building, critical thinking, and spiritual practice.



Presented by Sister India Jensen Kerr (St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton), Pr. Jesse Christopherson (Milwaukie Lutheran) and Pr. Emerson Remy Remmers (Grace, Corvallis). **Eight Thursdays, January 4-February 22, 6:30-8:00 pm on Zoom.**

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/v7cr9sw9>.



Bird in the Body of the World

by Angela Alaimo O'Donnell

December fifth, the first day of frost,
boxwood leaves silver in the sunlight.
Car windows coated, the glassy grass
crackles, fragile underfoot.
The sparrow steps lightly, as if he knows
what’s coming. Days of deep darkness,
nests full of snow,
wind that blows you into windows.
He does not curse, nor does he bless
the weather. He only takes what comes,
each dawn a day he never expected
to see. He is one of the Holy Ones.
He doesn’t know the world is a wreck.
Everything that is is perfect.

This poem appears in the December 2023 issue of *The Christian Century*.

New Paraments

At worship this Sunday, **December 10**, Pastor Laurie will bless the beautiful new paraments commissioned by the Altar Guild for St. Andrew. Portland liturgical artist Bryan Paatz designed and stitched the pieces, which are made of silk and decorated with gold threads applied by hand.



Paatz developed his career as a liturgical artist out of his love of sewing, a talent cultivated by his mother and grandmother. Textile art suits him because it combines art, sculpture, religious symbolism, and history.

The pieces echo the colors at the very top of Eleanor van de Water’s iconic tapestry, providing a lovely transition between the Sanctuary carpet and her work. As a side note, Bryan knew Eleanor so it’s appropriate that this project brings their artistry together in one place.

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family and friends of Cathy Malmstrom	Peace and God's comfort at her death	Pastor Laurie Newman
Family and friends of Claris Poppert	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Staff
Carol Hogan	Healing and comfort	Sue Cahlander
Patricia Santelmann (mother)	Healing and comfort	Lynn Santelmann
Elizabeth (friend)	Healing and recovery from cancer	Lee Anne Knapp
Jessica Garrison (stepdaughter)	Healing, comfort, and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Sabrina (Jessica's mother)	Comfort and strength	Lee Anne Knapp
Shaw/Shreve family	Comfort and strength through transition	Lee Anne Knapp
Doris Larson	Healing and comfort from breathing concerns	Sherry Myers
Fields Mattio (friend)	Healing and comfort from RSV	Rebecca Uecker
Paul (brother-in-law)	Strength and healing	Ginny Link
Aubrey (Lydia's friend)	Comfort and peace	Martha Ragan
Anne Newell	Smooth transition and the support she needs	Sister India
Nel Brown	Protection and safety while traveling	Mary Brown
Scott Taylor	Safe travels and a smooth transition	Staff
Individual friends and loved ones	Whatever they most need	Staff
People in Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine	Protection, safety, and comfort	Staff
Victims of Domestic Violence	Comfort, strength, and the support they need	Rebecca Uecker
St. Andrew Council Executive Committee Staff Call Committee	Wisdom and discernment	Staff
Sister India Jensen Kerr and all seminarians and theology students	Encouragement and support	Staff
St. Andrew Foundation	Blessings on their ministry	Staff
New Life Lutheran (Florence) Bethany Lutheran (Gold Beach)	Serving with us in the Oregon Synod	Staff
Ecumenical and interfaith partners in ministry	Blessings on their work	Staff

If you know someone in need of prayers, please contact the church office by phone at 503-646-0629, email office@standrewlutheran.com, or fill out the prayer request form on the church website.

EcoFaith Recovery Matching Grant Opportunity

EcoFaith Recovery works to support climate justice and is excited to announce that a generous donor is offering a \$6,000 matching grant on new and increased donations to the organization before the end of the year. If you'd like to donate to raise the final \$22,031.52 needed, please go to: <https://ecofaithrecovery.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate2023>.

EcoFaith Recovery

For the Recovery of Life and the Healing of Creation

Council Minutes

Approved minutes from the October 19 Council Meeting are now available online and posted on the Narthex bulletin board. To view these on the church website, go to

<https://standrewlutheran.com/council-minutes/>

and type "PeaceonEarth" as the password.

Your St. Andrew Staff

Council President Liz Hardy president@standrewlutheran.com, 360-632-4900
 Interim Pastor Laurie Newman.....laurienewman@standrewlutheran.com
 Sister India Jensen Kerr india@standrewlutheran.com
 Deacon Susan Reiser, Parish Musician and
 Interim Minister of Music.....srwerner.reiser@standrewlutheran.com
 Dir. of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt.....kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Manager Carol Harker.....charker@standrewlutheran.com
 Administrative Assistant Rhonda Powelloffice@standrewlutheran.com
 Bookkeeper Karen Mallaribookkeeper@standrewlutheran.com
 Housekeeper Carol Hogan..... 503-646-0629
 Evening Facility Caretaker Scott Taylor 503-646-0629
 Parish Nurses Diane Reiner 503-201-4222
 Tira Nessel..... 503-866-5099

Preparing for Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 17,

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

Luke 1:26-38

Third Wednesday in Advent

Wednesday, December 20

Luke 1:26-38

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 10

9:30 am	In-Person Worship with Communion (also livestreamed on YouTube and via Zoom)	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service.....	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
11:00 am	The Roots	Children's Commons, Children's Library, LL Classrooms
11:00 am	Adult Ed: do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA?	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Confirmation for Middle School Youth.....	Library
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room
12:00 pm	Farewell Gathering for Scott Taylor.....	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Christmas Caroling.....	Meet at St. Andrew
3:00 pm	Spirituality Book Club	Mary Smith House

Monday, December 11—Church Office Closed

7:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting.....	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Men's Book Club.....	Library

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 am	Men's Gathering and Bible Study	Elmer's Restaurant on 158th (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)
7:00 am	Sunrise Women	Elmer's Restaurant on 158th (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)
9:00 am	Facility Management Team Meeting.....	St. Andrew Room
10:00 am	Tai Chi.....	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	Cathy Malmstrom Celebration of Life	Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Bridge Group	Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Scout Troop 198	Children's Commons

Wednesday, December 13 **Weekly News deadline 4:00 pm; submit material to charker@standrewlutheran.com & office@standrewlutheran.com**

1:00 pm	Sanctuary Team Meeting	Library
1:00 pm	Wednesday Book Group with India.....	St. Andrew Room
6:00 pm	Bells of Grace Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Wednesday Evening Advent Service	Chapel and via Zoom
7:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14

9:30 am	Seekers of the Heart of God Bible Study	St. Andrew Room
10:00 am	Strength and Stability with Susanne.....	Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Team Ministry Meeting	Chapel, Library
6:30 pm	Wing Chun Class	Children's Commons
7:00 pm	Foundation Team Meeting	Library

Friday, December 15

10:00 am	Tai Chi.....	Fellowship Hall
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Saturday, December 16

9:00 am	Christmas Day Service Recording	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Nifty Notters.....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Stewardship Meeting	via Zoom

Sunday, December 17

9:30 am	In-Person Worship with Communion (also livestreamed and via Zoom) with Brass Carols to follow	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service.....	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Lutheran Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
11:00 am	The Roots	Children's Commons, Children's Library, LL Classrooms
11:00 am	Adult Ed: Do Black Churches Matter in the ELCA?.....	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Confirmation for Middle School Youth.....	Library
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room





Cathy Malmstrom:
Celebration of Life

Tuesday, December 12
10:30 am, Sanctuary

*Reception to follow
in the Narthex*

Worship at St. Andrew or Connect to Virtual Worship

 **YouTube** **9:30 am:** Worship in the Sanctuary, watch the livestream of worship on YouTube, or participate in worship via Zoom. *Links for remote worship will be sent to you via email and the church app.*

 **zoom** People participating in worship via Zoom are invited to join worship at 9:30 am. To participate via Zoom you can use a computer, smartphone, tablet, or a telephone. Please note that Zoom worship is only available at 9:30 am. Anyone using YouTube for livestream worship may access the service at 9:30 am or any time after the livestream ends.