

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

November 27, 2024

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

Worship Service:
Sunday, 9:30 am

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

Big Horn Brass 2024

Annual Christmas Concert

A favorite holiday event for many community family calendars will return again this year! On **Sunday, December 1**, the Big Horn Brass performs their annual Holiday Concert at:

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
10390 SW Canyon Road, Beaverton



The renowned brass ensemble creates the perfect opportunity to hear some of the world's greatest holiday and festive music. The St. Matthew Exaltation Handbells start at 3:00 pm with the Brass concert starting at 3:30 pm.

This year's concert is "Christmas Joy." The 16-member ensemble spreads its sparkling brass tones through an endearing mix of instrumental and vocal holiday favorites. From traditional carols to festive arrangements for brass, the concert will warm the hearts of young and old. Mark Vehrencamp, the tuba player for the brass group that performs at St. Andrew, is also a member of the Big Horn Brass.

This year's free concert is a gift to the community from the Erik Weswig Memorial Fund, Beaverton Arts Commission, and other supporters of holiday music. Erik was a senior at Sunset High School and enjoyed this concert as part of his family Christmas tradition. In his memory, a Memorial Fund was established to support local events that he enjoyed. Donations for future concerts will be gratefully accepted. For more information or to donate, please go to ErikWeswig.com.

Hanging of the Greens



Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 7**, from 9:00 am-11:00 am, and plan to help decorate the church for Christmas. We'll have garlands and wreaths to hang and the Christmas tree to assemble and adorn with Chrismons.

A special note for younger congregants: It's time to pitch in and help our senior members in this joyful preparation for celebrating Christ's birth. Volunteers in their 70s and 80s should not be climbing ladders and would really appreciate your assistance!

Welcome to Our Thanksgiving Table

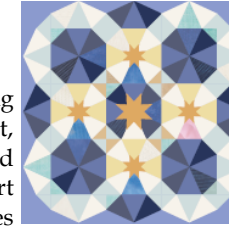
Casey Tkacz and her husband have a long tradition of inviting people who would otherwise spend the holiday alone to join them at their Thanksgiving table. If you're interested in sharing in this meal, please email Casey for details at casebeth1209@gmail.com.



This Year's Advent Theme:

Words for the Beginning

For Advent this year, we will be drawing from a worship resource by A Sanctified Art, a creative team of pastors, theologians, and artists who help congregations integrate art and creativity into their spiritual practices (visit sanctifiedart.org for more info). The theme for this year's Advent season will be, "Words for the Beginning." The following three paragraphs are taken from "About the Theme & Series" by A Sanctified Art and adapted by Pr. Allison:



Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we feel the weight of many things coming to an end. What are the reminders we need to move faithfully through this threshold of endings and beginnings?

This year's Advent series is filled with blessings. It is filled with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. We imagine the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew? The weekly themes illuminate these lessons. Thus, the themes may feel like the lessons we teach to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may also sound like the messages we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals. You are invited to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new personal and political chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.



Anne Newell Memorial Service

Saturday, December 7
2:00 pm, Sanctuary

Reception to follow in
Fellowship Hall.

Have a Waste-Free Winter with These Helpful Tips

Article from Nov/Dec '24 issue of Your City, Beaverton's newsletter

As the winter season continues, let's come together to embrace a waste-free lifestyle! Join us in making this winter sustainable and eco-friendly. By reducing waste and reusing materials, we can all contribute to a cleaner, greener planet. Whether it's through thoughtful gift-giving, mindful consumption, or creative upcycling, every effort counts. Here are some helpful tips:

Food: As we approach the holiday season, it is a great time to start thinking about how to reduce your waste! On holidays where food is a major theme, try to plan so that no food gets wasted, while everyone still gets what they want in terms of leftovers. Our favorite tool to help you figure out how much food to buy/cook is the Guestimator by Save the Food:

savethefood.com/guestimator.

Decorating: When it comes to decorating for holidays, thrifting and buying second-hand is a great way to find fun and peculiar items! You can even make your own! For example, cutting oranges into rounds, drying them out in your oven on low (or a dehydrator), and stringing them together can make beautiful seasonal garlands or streamers. Spice up your garland by adding cranberries, fresh rosemary or star anise. Save decorations from year to year while thrifting small amounts each year to keep it fresh!



Gift-giving: Gift experiences instead of things! This may be old advice, but people tend to value and remember experiences more than stuff. This is a great way to build relationships, celebrate love, or just have a good time! If you do want to give an item, think about using wrapping paper you already have, or utilize things like paper grocery bags, cloth, or other upcycled or reusable items.

Sources: Chan, C., & Mogilner, C. (2017). Experiential gifts foster stronger social relationships than material gifts. *Journal of Consumer Research*, 43(6), 913-931.

Find more tips at [BeavertonOregon.gov/WastePrevention](https://beavertonoregon.gov/WastePrevention).

Merry Christmas!
Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Oregon Chorale Concert



The Oregon Chorale is kicking off its 40th year with its traditional holiday *Christmas with the Chorale* on **Sunday, December 8**, at 4:00 pm, in the St. Andrew Sanctuary. Tickets are available now at oregonchorale.org/current-season or they may be purchased at the door.

If ticket prices exceed your means, please call the St. Andrew office (503-646-0629) and we will assign complimentary tickets for you and your family. These are limited, so please call soon.

Barnes School Christmas Giving Tree



St. Andrew is again providing support for students and families of nearby Barnes Elementary School. Barnes has a diverse student population, more than 65% of whom qualify for free or reduced lunch. St. Andrew has supported Barnes school students during Christmas for many years, and we are the only organization that provides this service for these students and families.

Here is how it works:

- 1) Pick a tag (or more than one!) from the tree in the Narthex.
- 2) Write the tag number/s, your name, and your email address on the sign-up sheet under the tree.
- 3) Purchase the item or gift card as listed on the tag (the amount for gift cards is at your discretion).
- 4) With the tag attached, return the item or gift card to the basket by **Sunday, December 15**.
- 5) You may include a small age-appropriate toy or book with the gift card.

For questions, you can contact LuAnn Staul, Fran Miller, or Linda McDowall. Thank you for sharing your love and your Christmas spirit!

Christmas Caroling

Are you ready to sing? Caroling was so meaningful to our homebound folks last year and we are going to do it again! There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please add your name to the list so Sister India will know you will be going. We will carpool to get from place to place and will all gather in the Narthex at 1:00 pm on **Sunday, December 15**. If you have any questions, please contact Sister India at: india@standrewlutheran.com.



Blue Christmas



Even the glorious news of Christ's birth cannot lighten our hearts when we've experienced a great loss or are struggling with sadness. While many around us are singing carols ("Joy to the World," "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve," and others), we are simply trying to maintain some sort of equilibrium to see ourselves through the day.

It's not easy feeling down when others are filled with so much joyful anticipation. If you are sad this Christmas for any reason, big or small, please join Sister India in the Chapel on **Saturday, December 14**, at 2:00 pm for a Blue Christmas worship service.

BE PREPARED

BUILD AN EMERGENCY KIT

Include enough food, water, and medical supplies to prepare in case of an emergency.



Create a Disaster Preparedness Kit Month Seven, December 2024

To Do:

- Ensure you've photocopied all important documents for all members of your family. Include these in your disaster kit.
- Discuss with your network and neighbors what help may be needed and how best to assist each other.

To Collect:

- Electrolyte replacement drink (sports drink or infant electrolyte solution)
- 3 cans fruit*
- Hard candy
- Comfort/stress foods (cookies, instant coffee, sweetened cereal, pretzels, chips, tea bags)
- 1 jar peanut or other nut butter
- 1 box crackers*
- Eating utensils*

* For everything followed by an asterisk, be sure to multiply by the number of people in your household (e.g., a family of four people will need 12 cans of fruit, 4 boxes of crackers, eating utensils for 4 people).

Weathering the Storm Together

During the severe tornado outbreak that swept through the lower Mississippi Valley between March 24-27, 2023, three remarkable older women living alone in a rural community demonstrated the power of a strong support network.



Seeking safety, each of the three women moved to their closets, maintaining their connection through a three-way phone call. When the tornado had passed, two of the three found their homes severely damaged and uninhabitable. However, the strength of their bond shone brightly in their time of need. The third friend, fortunate to have a structurally sound home, offered immediate shelter to her companions.

This story exemplifies the profound impact of knowing and engaging with neighbors and cultivating a robust support network. Fostering connections can make all the difference in navigating life's unexpected challenges.

Checklist for Creating a Support Network

- I have identified a support network of family, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and others who can assist me during an emergency.
- I have shared and practiced my emergency plan with my support network.
- My support network is aware of any specific needs I have.
- Someone in my support network has an extra key to my home, knows where I keep emergency supplies, and knows how to administer any medicines I need.
- My support network and I are informed about local emergency alerts and updates.
- I know my clinic/hospital's emergency plans and have identified backup service providers.
- I have or will try to participate in a community preparedness event or initiative.

Local Preparedness



EARTHQUAKE

[Neighbors Ready](#) is a local group offering a rich catalog of resources to help people prepare. Among these are [Hazard Information Sheets](#) that provide specific information about how to prepare for everything from an Active Shooter to a Cyberattack, from Earthquake and Extreme Heat to Wildfire or a Winter Storm.

Avoid Overwhelm with Five-Minute Projects

Preparing for disaster can be overwhelming. The more you learn, the more you might feel you need to do. If you're looking for quick preparedness activities to fit into your busy schedule, check out these [5-Minute Projects](#).

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family and friends of Ebba Carroll (Mike's mother)	Peace and God's comfort at her death	Mike & Mary Carroll
Anna (sister)	Healing and inner peace	Casey Tkacz
Art Uecker (father-in-law)	Healing and recovery	Rebecca Uecker
Mary Ann Snider	Strength and healing	Mary Smith
Carol Hogan	Comfort and healing	Carol Hogan
Camille Jackson	Comfort and healing	Sister India Jensen Kerr
Individual friends and loved ones	Whatever they need	Staff
All those who are caregivers for a loved one	Strength and support	Staff
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar	Strength and wisdom	Staff
Oregon Synod and Staff		
Refugees and immigrants	Acceptance, safety, and just treatment	Staff
Military Personnel, especially Justina Hailey Hope Brocker, Evan Dahlquist, Neil Fiegenbaum, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser, Jerami Reyna	Courage and protection	Staff
Faith Lutheran (Albany)	Serving with us in the Oregon Synod	Staff
Good Shepherd Lutheran (Albany)		
Grace Lutheran (Corvallis)		
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.

Civic Life & Faith: The ELCA's Stance on the Relationship between Church and Politics

In the words of the Rev. Michael Cooper-White, "much of the conflict we experience in the church today is generated by differing views about the proper relationship between church and state, faith and politics." For example, should churches take a stand on political issues or completely steer clear of them? What does it mean for modern Christians to live out their faith in all areas of their lives? We each carry our own perspectives on this issue, and as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation, it is important for us to be aware of our church's social teaching. During this three-week session, Pr. Allison will introduce the ELCA's teaching on this topic. We will learn about the ELCA social message titled, "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy," as well as the social statement, "Civic Life and Faith," that is currently under development (see elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-messages/government for more info). Please join Pastor Allison on Sundays at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall beginning **December 8**.

A Prayer of General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, from whom come all mercies, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Above all we bless you for your immeasurable love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all worship and praise, now and forever. Amen.

-Adapted from ELW, page 74

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Liz Hardy president@standrewlutheran.com, 360-632-4900
 Lead Pastor Allison Bengfort.....PastorAllison@standrewlutheran.com
 Sister India Jensen Kerr india@standrewlutheran.com
 Deacon Susan Reiser, Church Musician and
 Interim Minister of Music srwerner.reiser@standrewlutheran.com
 Dir. of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt..... kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Executive Carol Harker charker@standrewlutheran.com
 Administrative Assistants Martin Mills office@standrewlutheran.com
 Rhonda Powell office@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Nurses Diane Reiner 503-201-4222
 Tira Nasset..... 503-866-5099

Making Ends Meet

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help St. Andrew's administrative assistant Rhonda Powell and her family meet life's expenses while she continues to undergo cancer treatment. To learn more, please visit gofund.me/d9a92c15.



Emergency Pastoral Care

Sunday and Monday, contact
Sister India Jensen Kerr

Friday and Saturday, contact
Pastor Allison Bengfort

At other times, please call the church office at 503-646-0629.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, December 8, 2024

Ruth 1:1-22
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Wednesday, November 27

1:00 pm Wednesday Book Group with Sister India St. Andrew Room

Thursday, November 28—Church Office Closed

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Nature Gazing with Susanne Sanctuary of the Firs (subject to change)

Friday, November 29—Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 30

Sunday, December 1

9:30 am **Worship** **Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom**

9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel

10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel

2:00 pm Twirlers Practice St. Andrew Room, Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 2—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 3

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)

10:00 am Meals on Wheels/Loaves and Fishes Offsite

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Worship Planners Meeting Library

12:00 pm Bridge Group Fellowship Hall

4:30 pm HR Meeting via Zoom

6:00 pm Oregon Chorale Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm Adult Ed Team Meeting Library

7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm Columbia Willamette Faceters’ Guild Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm MACG Core Team St. Andrew Room

Wednesday, December 4—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com and charker@standrewlutheran.com

1:00 pm Wednesday Book Group with Sr. India St. Andrew Room

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent Worship Sanctuary

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, December 5

9:30 am Seekers of the Heart of God Bible Study St. Andrew Room

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

10:30 am Nature Gazing with Susanne Sanctuary of the Firs (subject to change)

1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library

5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom

6:30 pm Wing Chun Class Children’s Commons

Friday, December 6

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am Hanging of the Greens Sanctuary

2:00 pm Anne Newell Memorial and Reception Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 8

9:30 am **Worship** **Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom**

9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel

10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel

11:00 am Adult Ed: Civic Life & Faith Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library


11:00 am High School Youth Group Youth Room


11:00 am The Roots Children’s Commons, Children’s Library, Lower Level Classrooms

12:30 pm Fantasy Football Watch Party Youth Room

2:00 pm Christmas with the Chorale – Oregon Choral Concert Sanctuary

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 may use a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Please note that Zoom worship is only available at 9:30 am.