

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

August 29, 2025

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

Worship Service:
Sunday, 9:30 am

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

Ministry Fair Is Only One Week from Sunday!

Where and how are you called to serve that will bring you joy and purpose? Join us after worship on **September 7** and check out what is happening at St. Andrew. What tugs at your heartstrings? What do you see that leads you to think, "I would love to be a part of that!"? What can you tell others about how St. Andrew lives out its core values of God Care, Earth Care, Neighbor Care, Self Care, and Community Care?

More than 20 ministry teams want to speak with you about what they are up to, what makes your heart sing, and how you can participate in ways that fit your schedule. All our teams would be stronger if YOU were involved.

Ministry team leaders, please stop by and set up your table on **Saturday, September 6**, between 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm.

Questions? Contact any member of the Connections Team: Sonja Ackman, Gretchen Bancroft, Jim Brosh, Teri Brosh, Connie Losk, Tracie Semenchalem, or Jan Smith.



Way to Go, People of St. Andrew!

Many thanks from the Service Committee to all who donated new adult socks. Your generosity is a demonstration of God's love to the young people without a home who live in our city. Supporting organizations like Outside In help us to fulfill St.

Andrew's core values of Community Care and Neighbor Care. As of last count, we collected 231 pairs of women's socks and 216 pairs of men's, for a grand total of 447 pairs of socks to be donated to Outside In. Barrels to drop off your donations of **new adult socks** will remain available in the narthex through this Sunday.



Volunteers Needed at Clothes for Kids

St. Andrew has supported Clothes for Kids (formerly called the Beaverton Clothes Closet) both financially and physically for many years. Currently, they are in need of volunteers to work on site sorting clothes and assisting families seeking adequate clothing for their children. Various days and times are available for volunteers, and you are not required to have children enrolled in the district to participate—we appreciate all ages! Those who may be available and interested in volunteering are asked to contact Bonnie Bliesner by email at larrybliesner@comcast.net. You may also stop by the Service Committee's table during the Ministry Fair on **September 7**. Thank you to everyone interested in serving the children of the Beaverton School District!



The Service Committee

Council Corner

Here are some highlights, offered by Chuck Weswig, from the August meeting of your St. Andrew Congregational Council:

- Discussion of the recent Financial Review by Jeff Smith and the actual financial results for July. We celebrated that our revenues exceeded expenses, allowing us to start the new financial year on a positive note. We are grateful for the continued generosity of the congregation.
- Tom Mehlhorn gave a presentation about the Foundation and its role in legacy creation.
- The Council approved the wording of our 2025 goals and will be setting up teams for each goal.
- The Minister of Music search committee presented their candidate, John Gladen. The Council approved his selection. John's enthusiasm for music was evident to those who attended the mock choir rehearsal he led in early August as part of the interview process.

Pastor Julia Nielsen, our Synod facilitator for staffing discernment, will attend the Council meeting on **September 18**.

July 2025 by the Numbers

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

In-person:	99
Online:	94
Total:	169

Please note that online attendance was not recorded on July 6, so the total attendance figure is skewed.

Weekly Revenue

Average Weekly Revenue, including offerings, building use, etc.:	\$17,941
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Average Weekly Revenue needed to fully cover all budgeted expenses and end the year without a deficit:	\$13,409
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Fiscal Year to Date Revenue

Actual:	\$74,184
Budgeted:	\$58,736

Fiscal Year to Date Expenses

Actual:	\$51,741
Budgeted:	\$65,500

Fiscal Year to Date Surplus/(Deficit)

Actual:	\$22,444
Budgeted:	(\$6,765)

What's a Fatberg?

Article adapted from [Earth911.com](https://www.earth911.com), March 8, 2022 & July 22, 2025.

Last week we learned about several seemingly harmless things we do that harm the environment. Here is one more thing that I thought needed a little more attention: pouring old cooking oil down the drain.

You might think pouring leftover cooking oil down the sink is no big deal. I remember being told it is OK to do so if your dishwasher drains in the same drain because the hot water from the dishwasher will wash the fat away. But I have since learned that as the oil cools, it creates "fatbergs." A fatberg is a huge hunk of oil, grease, and fat all stuck together that floats around in the city sewer. Fatbergs stick to pipes and can lead to costly blockages once they enter the sewer system. Those plugs can cause the system to overflow, which releases hazardous chemicals and waste into natural waterways.

If you have a septic tank, pouring oil down the drain is even riskier. Grease buildup changes the tank's chemistry and stops helpful bacteria from breaking down waste.



How Fatbergs form: While it may not seem like a big deal for you to pour a little oil or grease down the drain from time to time, it becomes a major issue when everyone else in your city is doing the same thing.

When oil or grease goes down the drain it begins to combine with all the other oil and grease floating around in the sewer. When it all meets with so-called "flushable" wipes, tampons, or other things that should not be flushed, a lethal bond is formed. As more and more oil and grease accumulate, these blobs can become quite large.

In 2013, toilets began to overflow in London. The cause? A 15-ton fatberg that had nearly sealed off the sewer. In 2017, an even larger fatberg weighing a couple hundred tons was discovered in Belfast! According to New York City's 2017 "State of the Sewers" report, New York City spent \$18 million over five years removing fatbergs. Yikes!

Fighting fatbergs: Fatbergs are less of a problem in the U.S. than in many other countries because U.S. restaurants are required to have grease traps, and have to dispose of their used oil in a specific way. This greatly reduces the amount of oil being sent into our sewer system.

There are a few simple steps you can take to do your part in fighting off these fatbergs. First and foremost, only flush waste and toilet paper down the toilet. Disposable wipes and menstrual products (even the ones labeled "flushable") should go in the garbage.



Equally important, never pour oil, grease, or fats down the drain. Instead, collect your oil and grease until you have enough to recycle. Here's the recommendation:

- Designate and label a specific container for storing your used oil. Mason jars or coffee cans work great.
- You can reuse the oil. Allow it to cool, then strain it through a fine-mesh sieve, coffee filter, or cheesecloth to remove food particles. Store it in a clean Mason jar and keep it in the refrigerator.
- Eventually, all cooking oil will become rancid. To determine if yours has gone bad, give it a sniff. Good oil has a light, clean smell, while a bitter or metallic aroma—or something reminiscent of crayons!—means it's past its prime. If you're not sure, rub a bit of oil between your forefinger and thumb; fresh oil will feel smooth and light, but a sticky or tacky consistency indicates that it's time to toss.
- To recycle cooking oil, you can take it to any of these facilities: Far West Recycling, Metro Central Household Hazardous Waste, Cloudburst Recycling, and SeQuential-Pacific Biodiesel. Or call your local hazardous waste facility to find a local place. Recycling centers send it off to be made into biodiesel fuel.
- If that doesn't work, seal the container and put it in your normal garbage. While disposing of used oil with your regular trash is not ideal, in some areas that is the only option for folks. Just make sure your container is tightly sealed so it doesn't leak.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Attention Puzzle Lovers!

The St. Andrew Library is starting a jigsaw puzzle exchange. You're invited to bring a puzzle (with all the pieces!) that you've already enjoyed and take home a new one to complete. The puzzles will be kept on a lower shelf in the adult library. If you're a regular puzzler, you know how frustrating it is to be missing that last piece, so please be sure that puzzles arrive and leave with all their pieces.



First There Was Earth Day, Now There Is Sun Day!

Sun Day is a day of action on **September 21, 2025**, celebrating solar and wind power, and the movement to leave fossil fuels behind. Solar energy is now the cheapest source of power on the planet, and gives us a chance to actually do something about the climate crisis. Fossil fuel billionaires are doing everything they can to shut down our access to clean energy.



The goal at the Sun Day event in Portland is to raise broader public awareness about the affordable clean energy solutions available right now. President Trump's new bill eliminates many of these incentives by the end of the year, so now is the time to learn more about how you can get cheaper energy.

The need for a more rapid transition to clean energy, which will provide jobs and a more stable economy, demonstrates the growing support for a safer and more equitable energy future for all Oregonians.

Come join me at the Tom McCall Park along the Waterfront (221 SW Naito Pkwy) between 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm on **September 21**. Experience the Portland Waterfront transformed into a celebration of clean energy, with powerful speakers, a bridge parade, a celebration of music and art, and a chance to learn more about how everyone can contribute to the Sun Power Revolution!

Liz Hardy

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family & friends of Wally Fulbright (neighbor)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Sue Cahlander
Randy Schutt (husband)	Healing and recovery	Choice Schutt
Liz (coworker)	Healing and recovery from surgery	Casey Tkacz
Kristin & Wayne Sacks	Safety from wildfires and peace	Mary Smith
Elizabeth Jacobs (mother)	Gratitude for and celebration of 80th birthday	Sonja Ackman
Loved ones in need of ongoing prayer, including Tandy Brooks, Rhonda Powell, Jennifer Shaw, Arden Tarum, Megan Webber	Healing and assurance of God's presence	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Zion (Redmon), Story Dwelling (Bend), Shepherd of the Hills (Sisters), and Shepherd of the Mountains (Sunriver)	Blessings on their ministry	Staff

Caring for St. Andrew's Forest and Wetland



This Sunday, for the third time this summer, we will be worshipping in the Sanctuary of the Firs. As you walk down the path to the beautiful fir-encircled space, take a moment to notice the various native plants that grow along the path. Many plants have name signs, placed by either Clean Water Services or the children who participated in this year's Earth Camp. Some of my favorites are snowberry, scouring rush, checker mallow, and ocean spray.

For the first time, we have discovered wapato in our wetland, which is a native plant that grows underwater and was a food staple of the Kalapuya. The introduction of native plants has led to many creatures inhabiting our forest. You may have seen the deer and birds, but we also have beaver and coyotes.

On your trip to the Sanctuary of the Firs you will also see many invasive plants that have crept in and threaten to take over our native habitat. Some particularly aggressive invasive plants you will see are Himalayan blackberry, bindweed, and English ivy. If these plants are not removed they will soon take over and block out the ability for the native plants to grow and thrive.

We at St. Andrew have an obligation to steward the beautiful forest and wetland that we have. As you observe the native plants and the invasives, please consider joining the Earth Care Team on St. Francis' Day, **October 4**, for an invasive removal work party. More information to come soon.

LuAnn Staul
Earth Care Team Chair

Welcome, John Gladen

Next week, St. Andrew welcomes John Gladen, our new Minister of Music. The son and grandson of Lutheran pastors in the ELCA, John grew up singing in the choir, playing and singing with a praise band, and offering special music, both as a soloist and in small groups. Please welcome John, who comes to us from Milwaukie Presbyterian Church, where he served as music director.



As John mentioned in his application letter, "Through making music with others, we create beauty and connection that we cannot do by ourselves. The community that is created is greater than the sum of its parts, bringing us closer to each other and to Christ."

Help Us "Mug" Visitors by Donating Old Coffee Mugs



As part of our Welcome Ministry, we gift visitors a mug filled with treats along with information about St. Andrew. Our supply of these coffee or tea mugs is running low, however, so we're looking for people to donate mugs they no longer need. Mugs can be given to Sandi Beavers or the church office.

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Chuck Weswig.....president@standrewlutheran.com
 Lead Pastor Allison Bengfort..... pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
 Associate Pr. Colleen Nelson.....pastorcolleen@standrewlutheran.com, 269-274-1365
 Dir. of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt..... kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Executive Carol Harker charker@standrewlutheran.com
 Administrative Assistant Martin Mills.....office@standrewlutheran.com
 Parish Nurses Diane Reiner 503-201-4222
 Tira Nesset..... 503-866-5099

New Books in Adult Library

"Check out" these new non-fiction titles in the upstairs library at St. Andrew:

- *Equal Rites: Lesbian and Gay Worship, Ceremonies and Celebrations* by Kit-tredge Cherry and Zalmon Sherwood
- *Medgar and Myrlie: Medgar Evers and the Love Story that Awakened America* by Joy-Ann Reid
- *A Year by the Sea: Thoughts of an Unfinished Woman* by Joan Anderson
- *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv
- *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt
- *The Bodies of Others: The New Authoritarians, COVID-19, and the War Against the Human* by Naomi Wolf
- *Living Beyond Our Fears: Discovering Life When You're Scared to Death* by Bruce Larson

We also now have an Oxford Study Edition of *The New English Bible with the Apocrypha* available to be checked out.

Food Pantry Donations

Last Thursday, Mary & Mike Carroll delivered 36 lbs. of food donations from St. Andrew to the St. Matthew Food Pantry.



The St. Matthew Food Pantry is particularly in need of pasta sauce and tomato sauce. Please place your donations in the barrel in the narthex. Thank you!

Don't Forget

- New Member Classes start **9/13** at 10a.
- Immigrant Story Live on **9/13** at 7p.
- Bonhoeffer Weekend is **10/25 - 10/26**.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, September 7, 2025

Isaiah 32:14-18
Psalm 1
Luke 14:25-33

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, August 29

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
 1:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Sanctuary

Saturday, August 30—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, August 31

9:30 am Worship Sanctuary of the Firs, Sanctuary, and via Zoom
 9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel
 10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel
 2:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 1—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2

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 Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
 10:00 am Worship Planners Meeting Library
 12:00 pm Bridge Group..... Fellowship Hall
 1:00 pm Sanctuary Team Meeting Library
 4:00 pm Connections Team Meeting Library
 7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal..... Sanctuary
 7:00 pm HR Meeting via Zoom
 7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 3—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & charker@standrewlutheran.com

Thursday, September 4

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library
 5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting..... via Zoom
 7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall
 7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children’s Commons

Friday, September 5

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 6—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall
 3:00 pm Ministry Fair Set-up Fellowship Hall, Narthex, Sanctuary

Sunday, September 7

9:30 am Worship Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom
 9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel
 10:30 am Christian Education Open House & Ministry Fair Fellowship Hall, Narthex, Sanctuary
 10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel
 1:00 pm Twirlers’ Meeting & Practice..... St. Andrew Room, Fellowship Hall
 2:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Children’s Commons

Friends and family are invited to a **Celebration of Life**

for Barbara L. Zurstadt



Saturday, September 20, 2025
 Memorial Service: 11 am
 with Reception, Refreshments, and Memories to follow
 at Christ Lutheran Church of Aurora

For more details, directions, and updates and to RSVP, go to <https://www.zofx.net/colbz>.
 If you do not have Internet access,
 please leave a voice message or text at 503-610-2583 to request more information.

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.