

# ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

September 26, 2025

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

Worship Service:  
Sunday, 9:30 am

[www.standrewlutheran.com](http://www.standrewlutheran.com) ■ Telephone: 503-646-0629

## Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet in the St. Andrew Adult Library at 2:30 pm on **Sunday, September 28**, with Fran Miller leading the discussion on *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar. At this meeting, we will also be selecting books to read and discuss for the next several months.



This historical fiction novel tells the story of the sister-in-law of Vincent Van Gogh, Johanna Bonger Van Gogh, who was instrumental in ensuring that the amazing art works of Vincent Van Gogh were put in front of the public. According to Kirkus reviews, this is “an engrossing, impeccably researched tale connecting passionate, creative women across time.”

Future Reading:

**October 26:** *The Last Life of Mable Beaumont* by Laura Pearson.  
Discussion Leader: Sharon Fako.

**November 23:** *James: A Novel* by Percival Everett.  
Discussion Leader: Mary Smith.

## Fall Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering

There are multiple opportunities for you to help us prepare for our next LWR Ingathering! On **Friday, October 24**, volunteers have their choice of a 2-hour shift between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. On **Saturday, October 25**, we need volunteers to staff a single three-hour shift starting at 9:00 am.



The Ingathering takes place in the St. Andrew parking lot near the community garden. We have two types of assignments:

- \* Loading the shipping container. Boxes can weigh up to 40 pounds.
- \* Greeting vehicles as churches drop off their donations.

To volunteer, please sign up on the sheets in the narthex. You can also contact Rochelle McIntire at [pacificnwlvrgroup@gmail.com](mailto:pacificnwlvrgroup@gmail.com) or Randy Sinn at [sinn78home@gmail.com](mailto:sinn78home@gmail.com) to sign up.

That's not all, though! We also need volunteers to assist with threading the cords through the nearly complete school bags. This assembly will be done in Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, October 8**, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Then on **Tuesday, October 21**, from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, also in Fellowship Hall, we need your help filling the school bags with the previously donated supplies. Snacks will be provided at the **October 21** event. No experience is necessary for any of these volunteer opportunities.

Finally, we are also in need of small- and medium-sized boxes—used or new—for packing quilts and school kits from St. Andrew. These boxes can't be too large or else they would exceed the weight limit. If you can save and donate any used boxes, please contact Mike McDowall at [mcdowall.ml@gmail.com](mailto:mcdowall.ml@gmail.com) or call 503-869-5685. Thank you!

## Stewarding Our Forest and Wetland

*All creation testifies to the power and presence of God.*

Please join us as we steward the beautiful forest and wetland that God has given us. Over the last decade more than 25,000 native plants have been planted on the St. Andrew property. Unfortunately, the invasive blackberry, holly, and ivy are also still thriving. Please join the Earth Care Team on St. Francis' Day, **October 4**, to help us remove invasive weeds.

### Invasive Weed Removal Party

- All Ages Welcome

### When

- Saturday, October 4**, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### What to Bring

- Weed Removal Tools
- Garden or Work Gloves
- Closed Toe Shoes or Boots
- 5 Gallon Bucket
- Water to Drink

### We Will Have

- Coffee and Cookies
- Advice on Native Plants and Invasives
- Native Plants to Give Away
- Extra tools, buckets, and gloves

You can email LuAnn Staul at [ljustaul@gmail.com](mailto:ljustaul@gmail.com) with questions and to let the Earth Care Team know that you plan to attend.

## New Member Orientation

Earlier this month, the Connections Team began a three-part New Member Orientation for those who may be considering membership at St. Andrew. This series will continue tomorrow, **September 27**, in Fellowship Hall, with the final session being held **October 4**, each from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Attendance at these classes is not required for membership but is certainly encouraged!



Each class covers a different topic, including a brief introduction to Lutheranism, an overview of St. Andrew, and information about what is involved in membership. There are also opportunities to connect with one another, with various ministry team leaders, and to tour the building. Through these classes, you will discern if St. Andrew is right for you, and you will have the option to join the congregation on New Member Sunday, **October 19**, if you so choose. For questions, reach out to Pr. Allison Bengfort or Connie Losk ([connielosk46@gmail.com](mailto:connielosk46@gmail.com)).

## Council Corner

The September Council meeting took place on Thursday, September 18. The meeting began with Kyler Vogt and Pr. Allison Bengfort encouraging Council members to reflect on how their church experiences have changed over time, from when they were younger to the present. This reflection served as a reminder of how our own relationships and needs evolve throughout our lives and can provide insight into other generations.

During the meeting, the Council had the opportunity to meet and speak with our new Minister of Music, John Gladen. John shared a brief overview of his efforts to become familiar with the congregation. He also shared his goals, which include establishing regular schedules for the choir, bell choir, and the introduction of contemporary music and band music. He aims to incorporate at least one of these musical experiences into our worship services each week.

Pr. Allison also introduced the Council to Pr. Julia "Jules" Nielsen, who will be with us for the next nine months as we undergo a process of discernment to identify an appropriate staffing plan for our current and future needs.

During this nine-month consultancy, we will experience three distinct seasons:

- \* *Season of Learning (Months 1-2)*: Focus on discovery and relationship-building, including one-on-one meetings with members and leaders, such as staff and Council members.
- \* *Season of Analysis (Months 3-6)*: Review of our learnings and searching for meaning.
- \* *Season of Deciding (Months 7-9)*: Deliberations, discussion, and calls to action.

Our willingness to listen, participate, and take action will determine the success of this consultancy. Pr. Jules will guide us, but the contributions of the staff, Council, and congregation members are essential for our success.

The meeting concluded with a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

*Chuck Weswig*  
Council President

## 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's



Many of our members have been touched by Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Perhaps a family member, a friend, or a neighbor has dealt with this dreadful disease. We have two very well-attended support group meetings that take place at St. Andrew, with the possibility of a third if need demands.

Becky and I will be walking in the 2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's, which will take place on October 11 at the Oregon Zoo. Won't you consider joining us and helping raise funds for this very worthwhile cause? I have created a team called "Lutherans Walking to End Alzheimer's" and it would be wonderful to have you join us. Donations are not required but highly encouraged. A minimum donation of \$100 will earn you a purple T-shirt to show your team spirit. You may also donate without walking, which would be greatly appreciated.

Please use the following link to join our team, or to donate to the team: [tinyurl.com/2025LutheransWalking](https://tinyurl.com/2025LutheransWalking).

Thank you so much for considering this important event.

*Rick & Becky LeRoy*

## Worship in the Sanctuary of the Firs with a Blessing of the Animals

Our final Sanctuary of the Firs service of the year will be on Sunday, October 5. In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will welcome pets and beloved creatures to this outdoor service for a Blessing of the Animals. All types of animals are welcome if they are appropriately contained (eg. dogs must be on leash) and do not present a safety concern to others. We would love to see a mix of cats, dogs, turtles, hamsters, and other creatures! If your animal is not able to attend the service, you are invited to bring a photo. You may also bring photos of beloved pets who have passed away, animal species that are endangered, or other animals you would like blessed.



As usual, we will offer a concurrent service in the sanctuary on October 5. Animals may not attend the indoor service, but you are invited to bring photos of animals to the indoor service to be blessed.

In case of rain: If weather prohibits us from worshipping outdoors, we will send out an email cancellation notice, and the in-person Blessing of the Animals will be postponed. Photos of animals will still be blessed at our service indoors.

## Volunteers Needed at Clothes for Kids

St. Andrew has supported Clothes for Kids both financially and physically for many years. Currently, the program needs volunteers to work on site sorting clothes and assisting families seeking adequate clothing for their children. Various days and times are available for volunteers.



Those who may be available and interested in volunteering are asked to email Bonnie Bliesner at [larrybliesner@comcast.net](mailto:larrybliesner@comcast.net).

*The Service Committee*

## Food Pantry Donations



Last Wednesday, Mary & Mike Carroll delivered 26 lbs. of food donations from the barrel in the narthex to the St. Matthew Food Pantry. Thank you to everyone who supports this ongoing and important mission of St. Andrew.

## Dan Fako

Memorial Service  
Saturday, October 18  
2:00 pm, Sanctuary

*Reception to follow  
in Fellowship Hall*



Attendees are encouraged to wear T-shirts from Thrivent or any non-profit organization that works for the good of all, such as Habitat for Humanity or OPB.

## Best Thrift Shop In Town!



As you all know, I discourage fast/cheap fashion that is not meant to last very long, and encourage shopping at second-hand or thrift stores. Remember how fashionable Donna Brocker always dresses? Her wardrobe comes from second-hand shops!

I have a favorite shop I would like to introduce you to, if you have not already discovered it: GHM Boutique at 4775 SW Main Ave., Beaverton. I recently got the chance to interview the owner, Tanya Hawkins, and want to share that interview with you.

All of the proceeds go to veterans. Tanya works with case workers and social workers at the Veterans Administration and the Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center in different counties throughout Oregon and southwest Washington. The social workers and case workers contact Tanya if there is a veteran who needs financial help with things such as their rent payment, electric bill, DMV costs, or other monetary needs. Money from the boutique goes directly to veterans in need, but their requests have to be vetted by the social and case workers. Through that process, the people in need are screened to be sure they are truly veterans and their financial need is legitimate.

GHM Boutique is giving away close to \$10,000 each month to needy veterans across the state! This is the only nonprofit for which veterans don't have to go through a lot of red tape to receive assistance. When they need help, they need it now. If they receive an eviction notice, they can't wait months for help from the government. Last month, GHM helped six veterans avoid being evicted from their homes! As well, veterans can come to GHM Boutique and shop for free!

The boutique has things for both men and women; items such as clothing, coats, shoes, handbags, scarves, jewelry, belts, and more. As with other thrift stores, people come to shop, but they also donate things they no longer need. Donations also come in from other thrift shops. Twice a month, what GHM doesn't sell gets donated to the Union Gospel Mission of Portland or to a clothes closet at Portland Metro Church. Even gently used socks and underwear are cleaned and donated to The Union Gospel Mission for homeless folks. And on every Thursday, a textile company comes to collect clothes and shoes that are too worn out to sell so they can recycle the fibers. Nothing from the shop goes to the dump!

There are no employees; the 20 folks who work there are all volunteers. One volunteer upcycles some of the clothes that can't be repaired or sold. Notice the beautiful pumpkins in the photo below (left, on top of circular clothes rack); they were made from a gorgeous cashmere sweater that had too many moth holes to darn. This same volunteer also turns old vintage clothing into beautiful handbags.



Tanya started GHM Boutique 14 years ago by partnering with the Portland Union Gospel Mission; she handed out sandwiches that she made and hygiene kits to the homeless in Portland. She started having garage sales to raise money to make the sandwiches and hygiene kits. People saw what she was doing and started donating things to the garage sale. Soon, there was so much stuff that she realized she would need a store! There were many hurdles to overcome, but between the grace of God and the partnerships with the VA and the Union Gospel Mission, Tanya has built a non-profit business whose mission is to help keep veterans clothed, housed, and fed. In her first year she raised \$1,300, the second year she raised \$13,000 and now the boutique raises more than \$100,000 a year for veterans!



A couple of interesting notes: The Boutique is in an old house that is on the historical register and was once a parsonage in 1880. So Tanya is reusing and repurposing a house as well as clothes! And GHM Boutique opened on Veteran's Day in 2017 to honor veterans. Finally, GHM stands for Gung Ho Ministries. Why "Gung Ho?" A veteran once told her that Marines often use the term "gung ho" to describe themselves, and recommended it as the name of her shop.

When I asked her what she wanted me to highlight about her business, she said "It's for the veterans! It's keeping them housed! We need to take care of what God has given us and not take it for granted. God always provides!"

*Liz Hardy*  
Earth Care Team

## Thank You Note from Janus Youth Programs

Thank you for your generous support of the 4,000 children, youth, and families that Janus Youth Programs works with 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Through programs focused on ending youth homelessness, preventing child abuse, helping youth recover from abuse, ensuring young families have safe, affordable housing, and funding educational scholarships, Janus is creating paths to success by partnering with youth, families, and the community.



I want to send the St. Andrew family a very special "thanks" from our Janus youth – you are showing them that someone really does care.

*Dennis L. Morrow*  
Executive Director

## In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Don (brother-in-law)	Peace and God's comfort at death of wife Donna	Carol Hogan
Leann (cousin)	Comfort, healing, and no further health complications	Wendy Hawthorne
Karen (daughter-in-law)	Healing and peace	Bob & Judy Scholz
Jeannine Douglas	Healing and recovery	Carol Harker
Mary (sister-in-law)	Healing and recovery from carpal tunnel surgery	Carol Hogan
The unemployed and underemployed	Successful search for meaningful & fulfilling employment	Lee Anne Knapp
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	Blessings on our ministry	Staff
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	Strength and wisdom	Staff
ELCA Church Council and Staff	Courage and wisdom	Staff
Ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners in ministry	Blessings on their work	Staff
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 Grace and Mercy Lutheran (Umatilla)	Blessings on their ministry	Staff

If you know someone in need of prayers, please contact the church office by phone at 503-646-0629, email [office@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:office@standrewlutheran.com), or fill out the prayer request form on the church website. Requests will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise specified.

## Book Report on *The Billionaire's Vinegar* by Benjamin Wallace

*Editor's Note: This title, along with all of those reviewed by our Adult Librarian, are available for check-out in the St. Andrew Adult Library. Thank you to Pam for her work to maintain our collection.*

This is the author's first book, and it's amazing how much work he put into getting all those facts in order. The various prices spent for wine across all those different years, the investors, chateaus, wineries, those who drink, and those who only buy to sell.

How much would you pay for a bottle of wine? Would you pay \$350,000? Would it depend on how old it was, or only on how good you thought it would be? Does it really matter if it tastes good? Would you pay more to "drink history"? That's what they felt they were doing with the bottle in this book—"drinking history"—since George Washington drank it with Thomas Jefferson in their time. But it's not like you could listen to their conversation.



Would you care to sleep in the bed Washington slept in? If you became a wine collector, how far would you go? 50 bottles or 19,000 bottles—more than you could drink in a lifetime. Art collectors spend a great deal on paintings they can hang on their walls and look at, but collecting wine is a bit different. If you really want to enjoy it, you have to drink it. Drink all the money you spent, destroy its value—besides all the money spent to keep it safe. Would you buy the house next door and remodel it into a wine cellar with the correct temperature and humidity?

What if that old wine or that painting is a forgery, a fake? Does it matter? What if the wine is not even good? That doesn't matter as long as no one drinks it...or does it? Maybe someone suspects it's bad, so your reputation is damaged, especially if you sell a lot of wine.

That's what happened in this story where a man finds a cache of old wine when workers are tearing down an old house in France. He buys it all, but never tells exactly where in France this house is, nor how many bottles there were. Rather, he hints there are fewer than 15, maybe fewer than 12. But as time goes by, and more and more happens in the story, the number keeps rising until 20 years later it's up to 30. Surely one could tell the difference between 12 bottles and 30, even if one didn't bother to count them. But you'd think he would have. Especially since these bottles are said to have once been owned by Thomas Jefferson and inscribed with his initials. But, as they say, therein hangs the tale.

It is an interesting tale.

Pam Farr, Adult Librarian

## WFWA Collection Drive



This Sunday will be your last chance to bring any donations for the Western Farm Workers Association (WFWA) collection drive. Thank you to all who give!

This year WFWA requests we collect:

- Coats
- Sweatshirts
- Sweaters
- Work pants
- Rain jackets
- Work boots

All clothing must be new or gently used, in good repair, and not soiled. In addition to clothing, the following items are needed for the WFWA food pantry:

- Tuna
- Beans
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Jam
- Cooking oil

Please place clothing items in the barrel in the narthex and food donations in bags or boxes nearby. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Reiser.

*The WFWA is an organization of farm and other low-income workers throughout the Valley. Through organizing, members gain control of their living and working conditions and reverse policies that kill and disable low-income workers and their families.*

## 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
Minister of Music John Gladen.....	jgladen@standrewlutheran.com
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 Nasset.....	503-866-5099

## Preparing for Worship Sunday, October 5, 2025

Isaiah 32:14-18  
Psalm 148:1-13  
John 14:15-17

## Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

### Friday, September 26

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, September 27—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

10:00 am New Member Class ..... Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

### Sunday, September 28

**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 | Prophets and Politics ..... Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Adult Ed | WomanSpirit Rising ..... St. Andrew Room

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth ..... Library

11:00 am High School Youth Group ..... Youth Room

2:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal ..... Fellowship Hall

2:30 pm Spirituality Book Group ..... Library

### Monday, September 29—Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, September 30

7:00 am Men's Gathering and Bible Study ..... Elmer's Restaurant on 158<sup>th</sup> (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)

7:00 am Sunrise Women ..... Elmer's Restaurant on 158<sup>th</sup> (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall

12:00 pm Bridge Group ..... Fellowship Hall

5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting ..... Chapel

7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

7:00 pm HR Meeting ..... via Zoom

7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal ..... Children's Commons

### Wednesday, October 1—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to [office@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:office@standrewlutheran.com) & [charker@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:charker@standrewlutheran.com)

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

### Thursday, October 2

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, October 3

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, October 4—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

9:00 am Nifty Notters ..... Fellowship Hall

10:00 am New Member Class ..... Sanctuary, Children's Commons

### Sunday, October 5

**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 | Prophets and Politics ..... Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Adult Ed | WomanSpirit Rising ..... St. Andrew Room

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth ..... Library

11:00 am High School Youth Group ..... Youth Room

1:00 pm Twirlers' Meeting & Practice ..... St. Andrew Room, Fellowship Hall

## 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.