

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

September 5, 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 This Sunday!

Where and how are you called to serve that will bring you joy and purpose? Join us after worship **this Sunday, 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.

Western Farm Workers Collection Drive

We are collecting clothing and food for the Western Farm Workers Association during the month of September. Last year we collected over 330 food and clothing items. This year they have requested we collect coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, work pants, rain jackets, and work boots. All clothing must be new or gently used, in good repair, and not soiled. In addition to clothing, they need the following food items for their food pantry: tuna, beans, rice, peanut butter, jam, and cooking oil. Please place the clothing items in the barrel in the Narthex and the food items in bags or boxes nearby. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Reiser.



New Member Orientation



This fall, the Connections Team is hosting a three-part New Member Orientation for people who are considering membership at St. Andrew. This series will be held on **September 13**, **September 27**, and **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 will cover a different topic, including a brief introduction to Lutheranism, an overview of St. Andrew, and information about what is involved in membership. There will also be 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).

Blue Cards for Law Enforcement Guidance

The Sanctuary Team will be distributing "Blue Cards" at its Ministry Fair table this coming Sunday. These small blue cards outline the process to follow if there are unannounced visits to St. Andrew from government officials seeking to detain immigrants. On **October 26** we will host a discussion of this process during the adult education hour.

The Blue Cards are the same size as the red Know Your Rights cards that the Sanctuary Team is handing out, and that are available through the church office, in Spanish, Farsi, and Chinese.



The Red Cards were developed by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. They outline rights and protections that all people in the United States have under the U.S. Constitution, regardless of immigration status.

St. Andrew is a Sanctuary Congregation working with Lutheran Community Services NW to support Afghan refugees. Our congregation also contracts with a Head Start program serving low-income families of all cultures and religions; provides space to Portland Taiwan Lutheran Church and the Immigrant Story non-profit organization; and welcomes all people into our worship space.

Stop by our table on Sunday to pick up Red and Blue Cards, talk with us about the process, and visit with Amina Malik Zada, who arrived three years ago from Afghanistan with her husband, Nasir, and their four children.

Cindy Stadel

2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's



Many of our members have been touched by Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Perhaps either 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 taking place.

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.

Thank you so much for considering this important event.

Rick & Becky LeRoy

Green Your Estate Planning for a Sustainable Legacy

Adapted from article by Daniel Rodriguez, Esq., from Legal Norcal P.C.

Estate planning is more than passing on financial assets. It can serve as a final reflection of your lifestyle, personal values, and what mattered to you most. As awareness of environmental concerns grows, many people are asking how their end-of-life decisions can support ecological responsibility. A green estate plan allows you to reduce your carbon footprint, support environmental causes, and leave behind a legacy that honors the planet. From digital documents and sustainable investments to eco-conscious burial options, going green with your estate plan is more accessible than ever.

What is Green Estate Planning? Green estate planning is the concept of making environmentally mindful choices within your overall estate plan. It prompts reflection on how wealth will be distributed, how end-of-life arrangements are handled, and even how legal documentation is stored. While traditional estate plans often rely heavily on wasteful paper records, chemical-laden burial processes, or investments in extractive industries, a green estate plan moves differently. It seeks to align your legacy with ecological respect, offering low-impact alternatives that support a healthier planet.

Digital documents over paper files: Traditional estate planning leans heavily on paper, sometimes hundreds of pages of print, creating a considerable environmental cost. Trees are cut down to produce the paper, forests shrink, and greenhouse emissions rise from the transportation and paper production processes. In addition to saving trees and reducing waste, digital estate tools allow for easier sharing among heirs, legal professionals, and trusted advisors, reducing the chance of loss or damage of printed versions over time.

Green your investments: The financial elements of your estate can also support environmental goals. Sustainable investing involves allocating your assets into portfolios that prioritize companies with strong environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards. By choosing to invest in funds that avoid fossil fuels, deforestation, or unethical labor practices, you send a clear message to your heirs about your values. These funds include companies focused on renewable energy, carbon reduction, or climate-conscious innovation. Ask your financial advisor about ESG portfolios.

Sustainable charitable giving: Another way to interweave environmental care into your estate planning is by giving to eco-charities. Whether it's conservation funds, wildlife protection programs, or nonprofit organizations focused on ecosystem preservation, your will can provide meaningful support.

Eco-conscious burial choices: Traditional burial practices rely on methods that use metal caskets, embalming fluids, cement liners, and large plots of land that require long-term maintenance with fertilizers and gas-powered tools. While cremation requires less space and upkeep, it consumes large amounts of energy and emits carbon into the atmosphere.



Green burial, which takes place in designated nature preserves or “green cemeteries,” avoids toxic chemicals and involves biodegradable burial methods. The body is commonly wrapped in a shroud or placed in a container made of natural materials like pinewood or bamboo, allowing the body to decompose naturally and return nutrients to the soil without leaving synthetic waste behind. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. There are 12 states where this is allowed, including Oregon, Washington, and California.

Reduce estate waste after death: Your passing often leads to significant material clean-up of furniture, belongings, or outdated goods. Instead of allowing your heirs to face disposal challenges, your estate plan can incorporate intentional directives to donate, recycle, or repurpose unneeded personal items. Specify in your will how you want items to be handled. Clothing, books, electronics, or furniture may be donated to charities, Habitat Restore, or shelters. Unused medications must be discarded responsibly with help from a pharmacy. Leaving instructions that steer away from landfills benefits both your heirs and the environment. Loved ones are less burdened by decisions. Donation receipts offer posthumous tax benefits for your estate.

Build a lasting ethical message: You can pass down more than wealth; you can pass down principles. Your estate plan can include an ethical will which is a separate document where you share wisdom, preferences, or spiritual messages. It's a good place to explain your sustainability commitment. Every choice you embed within your estate plan communicates something. It reflects what mattered to you, what you feared, what gave you joy, what you respected, and more. Aligning your estate with ecological goals leaves behind more than items. It offers inspiration, cuts waste, and respects the planet you relied on throughout your life, and it honors the generations that come next.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Bonhoeffer's Life Together Six-Week Study and Reformation Renewal Weekend

Join a six-week Zoom study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, **Tuesdays, September 16 – October 21**, 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm, led by Rev. Dr. Mark Bocker. Written from Bonhoeffer's experience leading the underground seminary of the Confessing Church during the rise of Nazi Germany, *Life Together* witnesses to faith in times of crisis and explores how prayer, service, and confession sustain Christian community. Learn more and register by visiting: tinyurl.com/LifeTogetherFall2025.

Whether you participate in the Zoom study or not, you're also invited to join us in-person around Beaverton or online via Zoom for the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Reformation Renewal Weekend, **October 25-26**, featuring Rev. Dr. Mark Bocker, editor of volume 16 of *Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Works*. On Saturday, take part in a 9:00 am workshop titled *With Courage and Humility: Bonhoeffer's Ethical Approach for Us Today* (in-person only), followed by a 7:00 pm lecture *Life Together as Resistance* (in-person or via Zoom). On Sunday, worship at 10:00 am with the sermon *A Miracle of Divine Mercy* and the 11:30 am Adult Forum *What Does It Mean to Tell the Truth* (in-person or via Zoom). Written amid the rise of Nazi Germany, Bonhoeffer's witness to faith continues to inspire resilience and courage for today.

Free-will donations benefit refugee services at Lutheran Community Services NW. Learn more about these weekend events by visiting tinyurl.com/dbrrw2025. Register to participate in-person or via Zoom by visiting tinyurl.com/BonhoefferWeekend.



In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family & friends of Dan Fako	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Pr. Colleen Nelson
The McDowall Family	Peace and comfort	Mike & Linda McDowall
Randy Schutt (husband)	Healing and recovery	Choice Schutt
Liz (coworker)	Healing and recovery from surgery	Casey Tkacz
Charlotte Kent (friend)	Peace and recovery from surgery	Donna McAlpine
Kristin & Wayne Sacks	Safety from wildfires and peace	Mary Smith
Rhonda Powell	Strength and pain relief	Carol Harker
Elizabeth Jacobs (mother)	Gratitude for and celebration of 80th birthday	Sonja Ackman
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar	Strength and wisdom	Staff
Oregon Synod Council and Staff	Courage and wisdom	Staff
Refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants	Acceptance, safety, and just treatment	Staff
Military Personnel, especially Justina Hailey Hope Brocker, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Hopeful Saints (Heppner) and Zion Lutheran (La Grande)	Blessings on their ministry	Staff

St. Andrew Needs YOU! Volunteer with Children & Youth

Our children and youth programs are in serious need of volunteer help for this program year. We need "storytellers" to supply our Sunday children's ministry, and we need adults interested in building relationships with our high school youth. Please read below to learn what is needed, and contact me to join a team.

"The Roots" Storyteller: The Roots is our Sunday morning children's program for kids in grades K-5. We are trying something new this year, with The Roots taking place in parallel with a portion of our worship service. Families will begin worship together in the Sanctuary, as usual. After the children's sermon, the kids will be invited to exit the Sanctuary and join the storytellers for their lesson. After approximately half an hour, the kids will be returned to the Sanctuary during the distribution of communion so they can participate with their families.



To make this possible, we need three or four more "storytellers" who are willing to take turns leading these lessons. Much of the prep work is done for you this year, as we will be utilizing a curriculum from The Go Project of the United Church of Canada. This progressive curriculum aligns closely with St. Andrew's core values and our emphasis on being Reconciling in Christ while helping kids engage with both Bible stories and real world issues in an age-appropriate way—just as we do for adults in worship.

We want to build a collaborative team of storytellers that work together, support one another, and share our vision for a healthy, grounded, and value-focused way to teach kids about God, life, and faith. Talk to me or Cindy Stadel for more details.

High School Youth Support: As St. Andrew works to meet the evolving spiritual needs of our younger generations, our current emphasis is on building connections through relationships. We are looking for 2-4 more people to commit to spending this school year building relationships with our high school students. Mostly, this is just showing up! Joining Sunday morning youth group, hanging out at game nights, going bowling, or carving pumpkins at a Halloween party. Very little preparation or training is necessary to volunteer! This is a great way to show our youth how much they mean to our congregation. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Kyler Vogt

Director of Next Generational Ministry

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 Nessel.....	503-866-5099

Volunteers Needed at Clothes for Kids

St. Andrew has supported Clothes for Kids (formerly 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

Help Us "Mug" Visitors

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.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, September 14, 2025

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
Luke 15:1-10

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, September 5

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
 12:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Chapel

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

Monday, September 8—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 9

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
 12:00 pm Bridge Group Fellowship Hall
 12:30 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Sanctuary
 1:30 pm Service Committee Meeting Library
 7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal Sanctuary
 7:00 pm Community Organizing Team Meeting St. Andrew Room
 7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 10—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & charker@standrewlutheran.com

Thursday, September 11

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
 12:00 pm Alzheimer's Support Group St. Andrew Room, Children's Library
 1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library
 7:00 pm Foundation Team Meeting Library
 7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall
 7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

Friday, September 12

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 13—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall
 10:00 am New Member Orientation Sanctuary, Children's Commons

Sunday, September 14

9:30 am Worship Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom
 9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel
 9:30 am The Roots Sanctuary, Children's Commons, Lower Level Classrooms
 10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel
 11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library
 11:00 am High School Youth Group Youth Room
 11:00 am Worship Leader Training Sanctuary
 1:00 pm Twirlers' Meeting & Practice St. Andrew Room, Fellowship Hall
 2:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Children's Commons

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.