

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

November 26, 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

Discussing Our Next Generational Ministry



This December, in Fellowship Hall, I will be hosting a series of panel/fishbowl discussions during the adult education hour at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings covering the topic of next generational ministry. I was so encouraged by the strong turnout and participation at the listening sessions in November, and these discussions will be a follow-up on some of the key themes that arose during those sessions.

Each panel discussion will be guided/moderated by me and will include a different demographic of folks from St. Andrew. Those attending will be invited to ask follow up questions, as well. I hope you will be able to join me for some of these sessions during the season of Advent so we can explore together what the future might look like as St. Andrew continues to grow as a community that shares the Good News with every generation!

Kyler Vogt

Director of Next Generational Ministry

Let's Talk About Late Life Depression

Aging with Grace, a small faith group of Holy Trinity Catholic, is pleased to announce they will have a guest speaker, Dr. Adi Shafir, for the meeting on **Friday, December 5**, being held in Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew. Dr. Shafir is a geriatrician and specializes in palliative care. She sees patients in the outpatient palliative care clinic at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and conducts geriatrics consults at the Internal Medicine Clinic. She completed medical school at University of Pittsburgh, internal medicine residency at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and a combined geriatrics and palliative care fellowship at University of California San Francisco. She lives in Beaverton with her husband, 2-year-old daughter, and 7-year-old pug.

Dr. Shafir will join Aging with Grace to talk about "Late Life Depression." Her presentation will be held at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm. This event is free and open to the public—everyone is welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Hilary Hutchinson at hilaryhutch@yahoo.com.



Revamping Our Welcome



You might notice that the "Greeters" section has disappeared from the Worship Leaders online sign-up. We're taking some time to rethink and refresh how we welcome visitors to St. Andrew.

Kim Taylor-Blakemore, our field education seminarian, is working on a new approach that we'll be trying out with a small pilot group. We'll share more as things come together—so stay tuned for updates in Weekly News!

Free Community Concert at St. Matthew

Big Horn Brass and the St. Matthew Exaltation Handbell Ensemble invite you to their 2025 annual concert, "Christmas Joy," **this Sunday, November 30**, at 2:30 pm. This is a free community concert being held at St. Matthew Lutheran, 10390 SW Canyon Rd. in Beaverton. You can learn more about this free event by visiting: erikweswig.com.



Mid-Week Advent Worship Services

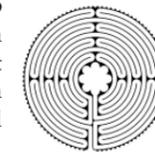
Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you. —Based on Psalm 141, Holden Evening Prayer



On the Wednesdays of Advent, **December 3, 10, & 17**, we will gather at 7:00 pm in the chapel for Holden Evening Prayer, a beloved service of singing, scripture, and reflections from congregation members. This year, we will feature a variety of instruments, including flute, harp, and cello, and we will begin each service in candlelight. We hope you will join us for these beautiful and restorative services!

Labyrinth Walking in Advent

Before and after our mid-week Advent worship services, we will have the labyrinth set up in Fellowship Hall for contemplative walking. It will be available beginning at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays before worship at 7:00 pm, and again from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm after the service.



If you are unfamiliar with the spiritual practice of labyrinth walking, Pr. Colleen Nelson will be offering a brief orientation, immediately following Holden Evening Prayer, at 7:30 pm on **December 3**.

Join Us Soon for Christmas Caroling!

All are invited to share the joy of the season as we bring Christmas music and warm greetings to our wider community. We'll gather for lunch at the church on **December 14**, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, then head out together for an afternoon of caroling.



Our first stop will be The Springs where we'll sing as a group for residents and staff. Afterward, we will split into smaller groups to visit and sing at the homes of St. Andrew congregants who could use a bit of extra Christmas cheer this year.

Do you play an instrument? We would love to have musical accompaniment as part of the afternoon. All ages and abilities are welcome! A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex near the main door into the sanctuary. For more information, please contact Pr. Colleen Nelson. Help us share the light, warmth, and music of Christ's birth with our community!

Trees for Travel

Article adapted from *Climate Action Now*

Planning to travel by airplane this holiday season? You're in good company! 2025 U.S. holiday travel is expected to break records, with more than six million estimated air travelers and 73.3 million drivers traveling for Thanksgiving alone.

Cutting back on air travel is an important step we can take to reduce our climate impact. But it doesn't have to come at the expense of time with loved ones—precious moments that can help us heal, relax, and hope for the future. That's where the Trees for Travel program from Climate Action Now comes in.



If you are going home for the holidays, consider buying enough trees to sequester your trip's emissions. The trees, planted by EarthLungs Reforestation Foundation, will support critical forest restoration efforts in Kenya. Your trees are never harvested or traded. They're planted and protected by local farmers and live out their natural lives, creating lasting forests that clean the air, store carbon, and shelter wildlife.

You can visit climateactionnow.com/product/trees-for-travel to buy your trees!



EarthLungs Reforestation Foundation is a community-led, African-founded nonprofit organization that is dedicated to restoring degraded ecosystems across Sub-Saharan Africa. Since its inception in 2021, it has grown into a regional powerhouse in nature-based climate action, transforming landscapes and uplifting many livelihoods.

With a vision to plant, protect, and sustain 1.5 billion trees by 2032, EarthLungs anchors its mission on environmental regeneration, local empowerment, and climate resilience. It currently operates 39 active sites across Kenya and Tanzania, with new expansions underway in Mozambique and Madagascar. So far, EarthLungs has planted 45,561,891 trees in Kenya and 12,389,869 trees in Tanzania for a total of 57,951,760 trees!

- ◆ Trees are the lungs of the earth. Without trees on earth, human beings would not survive, but without human beings, trees would still survive on earth abundantly.
- ◆ Forest-adjacent communities in Africa are protecting the world's most precious resource—indigenous forests. Providing these communities with decent wages and access to payment for ecosystem services is not a favor but a decent ask. There is no pride in being poor yet protecting the most precious resource on the face of the earth.
- ◆ EarthLungs works in partnership with national forest agencies and local communities to rehabilitate degraded public forests. It plants indigenous trees and mangroves using science-backed, community-driven approaches.

You can visit earthlungs.org for more information. I hope you will consider buying trees to offset the climate impact of your holiday travel!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Barnes School Christmas Giving Tree

Our 2025 Christmas Giving Tree will support 20 Barnes School families. Barnes School serves a diverse, financially challenged student body. One hundred "ornaments" decorate the Giving Tree, with each ornament tag providing information about the recipient and where to purchase a gift card for the recipient.



Here is how it works:

1. Select tag(s) from the tree.
2. Note the number and description on the tag.
3. Find the number and description on the list and provide your name and email so we can track the tags as they come back. (This information will not be shared.)
4. Purchase the gift card from the specified location. We suggest that the gift card purchases be for a minimum of \$25.
5. Return the gift card with the tag to the church by **December 14**. Leave the gift card(s) with a Service Committee member or with the office during the week.
6. We also welcome gifts of children's books and stuffed animals.

Thank you for helping to make this Christmas special for these families.

Let us know what questions you have by contacting either:

LuAnn Staul (ljstaul@gmail.com / 503-314-6321), or

Mary Smith (dbits1@gmail.com / 503-332-9732).

Thank You for Local Benevolence

Note to St. Andrew congregation: One and a half percent of the St. Andrew Ministry & Mission funds are designated as Local Benevolence and are distributed by the Service Committee to support local nonprofits that impact hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, and children & families in poverty. The Service Committee donates \$450 to each of several local organizations annually. The following thank you note was received from the Good Neighbor Center.



Dear St. Andrew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous contribution to Good Neighbor Center. Your support helps us provide families with not only shelter and meals, but also encouragement and the resources they need to move toward stability. We are truly grateful for your continued support.

Warmly,
Jodi Collins

Development Manager of Good Neighbor Center

CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. ANDREW



Wednesday, December 24
at 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm

This year's Christmas Eve worship services will include lessons, carols, communion, and candle lighting. The 4:00 pm service will feature string instrumentalists from the Oregon Symphony, while the 9:00 pm service will include our very own Bells of Grace and Sanctuary Choir. Both worship services will include a sermon and Christmas activity bags for children. Bring your family and friends to join the celebration of Christ's birth!

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Dori (cousin)	Peace and God's comfort at death of friend, Alexander	Carol Hogan
Mary Brown	Continued recovery from hip infection	Mary Brown
Tom Clark (brother)	Desired outcome from cancer treatment	Bonnie Bliesner
Mary (sister-in-law)	Healing and recovery	Carol Hogan
Sheldon Leppert (nephew)	Peace and comfort upon entering hospice	Judy Heidinger
Sharon Fako (mother)	Thanksgiving for desired test results & release from hospital	Rebecca Uecker
Bob Brown (husband)	Thanksgiving for successful transition to new living situation	Mary Brown
LuAnn & Steve Staul	Blessings, continued love & health for 50 th anniversary (11/29)	LuAnn & Steve Staul
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Resurrection Lutheran (Portland), St. Timothy Lutheran (Portland), Zion Lutheran (The Dalles), and Spirit of Grace (Hood River)	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, or fill out the prayer request form on the church website. Requests will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise specified.

Blue Xmas Service & Soup Luncheon, Saturday, December 20

Christmas can be a season of joy, but it can also be a season of longing, grief, and tender memories. Our Blue Christmas Service creates space for quiet reflection, comfort, and hope—an opportunity to rest in God's presence amid whatever this season holds for you.



We'll gather for worship in the chapel at 12:00 pm, followed by soup and community in Fellowship Hall beginning at 1:00 pm. Friends, neighbors, and anyone who might welcome a gentle place this season are warmly invited.

A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex by the entrance to the sanctuary—we'd appreciate a count for food. If you'd like to help with set-up, please contact Kim Taylor-Blakemore at 503-545-6133. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of healing, reflection, and connection.

Upcoming Community Concerts

All are invited to the following community concerts, some of which feature our very own members and staff! Below is a list stating the when, who (if applicable), what, where, and how much, followed by a link with more information. If a member of the St. Andrew community is performing, their name is listed in boldface type.



- **December 6** at 7:30 pm and **December 7** at 3:00 pm, **Janice Fairlee**, ISing Community Choir—Reaching for the Stars, The Reser Center, \$14, bit.ly/3KpDh0u.
- **December 7** at 4:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Oregon Repertory Singers—Glory of Christmas, First United Methodist Church, \$31.50-\$51.50, bit.ly/3LMAKxP.
- **December 11 & 12** at 7:00 pm and **December 13 & 14** at 3:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Portland Baroque Orchestra—Handel's Messiah, First Congregational Church, \$28-\$92, bit.ly/pbomessiah.
- **December 19** at 7:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Northwest Vocal Arts Ensemble—The Grotto Christmas Festival of Lights, The Grotto, \$16.95, bit.ly/nwvagrotto.
- **December 20** at 2:00 pm and **December 21** at 7:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Northwest Vocal Arts Ensemble—Voice of Winter: New Light, Rose City Park United Methodist Church, \$39.19, bit.ly/nwva.
- **December 28** at 8:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Small Tenor & Bass Ensemble—The Grotto Christmas Festival of Lights, The Grotto, \$16.95, bit.ly/nwvagrotto.

Please submit your events to John Gladen at jgladen@standrewlutheran.com and include the information for the event such as when, who, what, where, cost, and a website link.

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

Hang Greens & Sing Carols!

Get out those elf hats and Christmas sweaters: it's time for a Hanging of the Greens and St. Andrew Carol Sing-Along Party! Join us on **Saturday, December 6**, for a joyful afternoon of carols and community, led by our music minister, and preceded by the official decorating of the church for Christmas.

We'll need many hands (and ladders!) to hang wreaths, garlands, and greens throughout the sanctuary and narthex.



Bring your holiday spirit, your singing voice, and maybe your favorite cookies to share! The Hanging of the Greens will begin at 2:00 pm, followed by the Carol Sing-Along at 3:30 pm.

Under ~Forty Supper Club



The next meeting of the People Under 40-ish Supper Club will be held on **Wednesday, December 3**, from 5:15 pm to 6:30 pm at the home of Matt & Lindsey Delaney (around the corner from St. Andrew).

If you're interested in attending, please reach out to Matt Delaney or Pr. Allison Bengfort for more details.



Preparing for Worship Sunday, December 7, 2025

Isaiah 43:19-21
Matthew 11:1-11

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Wednesday, November 26

11:00 am Alzheimer's Support Group..... St. Andrew Room

Thursday, November 27—Church Office Closed

Friday, November 28—Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 29—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, November 30

9:30 am Worship with Children's Church Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom

9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel

10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel

12:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer Rehearsal Chapel or Sanctuary

Monday, December 1—Church Office Closed

5:30 pm Oregon Chorale Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Chapel

Tuesday, December 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)

9:00 am CUT (Constitution Update Team) Meeting..... St. Andrew Room

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

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

1:00 pm Immigrant Story Recording Session Children's Library

1:00 pm Sanctuary Team Meeting..... Library

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

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

7:00 pm Columbia Willamette Faceters' Guild Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm HR Meeting via Zoom

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

1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary

6:30 pm Labyrinth Walking Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm High School Youth Game Night..... Youth Room

7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent Worship Chapel

7:30 pm Labyrinth Orientation Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, December 4

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting..... via Zoom

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children's Commons

Friday, December 5

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm Aging with Grace..... Fellowship Hall

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

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

2:00 pm Hanging of the Greens Church Building

3:30 pm Christmas Sing-Along Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Sunday, December 7

9:30 am Worship with Children's Church 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 | St. Andrew: The Next Generation Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library

11:00 am High School Youth Group Youth Room

4:00 pm Oregon Chorale Holiday 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.