

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

December 12, 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

Join Us for Christmas Caroling This Sunday!

Our annual Christmas Caroling is almost here, and we hope you'll join us **this Sunday, December 14**, as we bring music, joy, and companionship to our homebound congregants.

We'll begin with lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm, then at 1:00 pm we'll break into small groups to visit members of our St. Andrew community who are unable to attend worship in person this season. Your presence and love sharing Christmas cheer will mean more than you know.

If you haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible. You'll find the sign-up sheet in the narthex on the table near the double doors into the sanctuary.



All ages, voices, and instruments are welcome. Bring your carols, your kindness, and your Christmas spirit as we share the hope and light of Christ throughout our community.

CAROLING

For more information, contact Pr. Colleen Nelson.

Giving Tree Gift Cards Due by This Sunday

If you picked a tag (or tags!) from our 2025 Christmas Giving Tree, the ornament tag along with its gift card must be returned by **this Sunday, December 14**. Thank you for your support that will help make this holiday season special for 20 Barnes School families in need.



If you have any questions about this collection, contact either: LuAnn Staul (ljstaul@gmail.com / 503-314-6321), or Mary Smith (dbits1@gmail.com / 503-332-9732).

Most Recent Food Pantry Donations Delivery

Last Thursday, Mike & Mary Carroll delivered 146 lbs. of food from the barrel in the narthex to the St. Matthew Food Pantry.

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!

Confirmants Planned This Sunday's Worship



Worship this Sunday was planned and will be led by the members of our Confirmation class. They chose the translations for the readings, chose the hymns, and talked about the theme for the day.

As has been the case for many years, the sermon skit, written by Libby Calhoun, is a real highlight. Please be sure to thank Cora, Nora, Alyssa, Evan, Randyn, Zaine, Tegan, Elsa, and Kiran for their creativity and hard work. And don't forget to mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 8**, to come and cheer these same students on at this year's Super Bible Bowl following worship.

Next Generational Ministry Forums Continue

This Sunday, following worship, is the second session of our adult education forum on the topic of Next Generational Ministry and will feature a panel discussion with several of St. Andrew's younger adults. This week's focus will be the gospel: What is the Good News for the next generation in our church? This conversation flows directly out of several topics which came up during the listening sessions in November. We hope you will join us at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall **this Sunday, December 14!**



November 2025 by the Numbers

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

In-person:	134
Online:	114
Total:	202

No online attendance recorded on November 2 & 16, so total is skewed

Weekly Revenue

Average Weekly Revenue, including offerings, building use, etc.:	\$17,084
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Average Weekly Revenue needed to fully cover all budgeted expenses and end the year without a deficit:	\$15,115
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Fiscal Year to Date Revenue

Actual:	\$328,436
Budgeted:	\$293,678

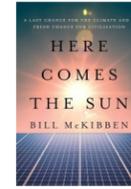
Fiscal Year to Date Expenses

Actual:	\$279,696
Budgeted:	\$327,487

Fiscal Year to Date Surplus/(Deficit)

Actual:	\$48,740
Budgeted:	(\$33,809)

Here Comes the Sun!



Bill McKibben is an environmentalist, author, and journalist who has written extensively on the impact of global warming. His most recent book, *Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*, was published in August of this year. Following is an excerpt I'd like to share from the third chapter of that book.

You'll remember that June and July 2023 shattered the old records for the hottest days ever measured on planet Earth. Though the records are a bit imprecise, those also seem to be the months when humans passed a much more hopeful mark—for the first time we were putting up a gigawatt's worth (which is to say a coal or nuclear power plant's worth) of solar panels every day. By the Northern Hemisphere summer of 2024, when we once again crushed those temperature records, we were putting up a gigawatt of solar panels every 18 hours. We were suddenly on the steep part of the S curve, with wind and solar scaling faster than any energy technology before them.

That gigawatt we were erecting every 18 hours? It had taken a full year to install it in 2004, and a week in 2016. Solar generation grew more in 2024 than coal-fired power has grown—total—since 2010. By 2026, according to the International Energy Agency, solar will generate more electricity than all the world's nuclear plants combined. By 2028 it will generate more than all the hydro dams. By 2030 it will have outstripped gas, and by 2032 coal. If we manage to stay on the IEA's net-zero-by-2025 curve, then solar energy will become the earth's largest source of all energy, not just electricity, by the 2040's. We're still at the very beginning of this boom. In 2024 solar panels covered an area just roughly the size of New Jersey. And yet they already provided 6% of the earth's electricity—three times as much electricity, as *The Economist* pointed out in a special issue on the "Dawn of the Solar Age," as the U.S. used in 1954 when the solar cell was invented.

To say that this rapid growth was unexpected is an understatement. It would be more accurate to say that everyone who has tried to forecast how fast sun and wind power would grow have not just missed the mark but shot the arrow pretty much straight into the ground. *The Economist* again: "In 2009, when installed solar capacity worldwide was 23 gigawatts, the International Energy Agency predicted that in the 20 years to 2030 it would increase to 244 gigawatts." In fact it hit that mark 6 years later, and now we're installing 244 gigawatts every 6 months. For most of the last decade the IEA's five-year forecasts missed by an average of 235%. The only group that came even remotely close to getting it right was not JPMorgan Chase or Dow Jones or Blackrock. It was Greenpeace, which estimated in 2009 that we'd hit 921 total gigawatts by 2030. We were 50% above that by 2023.

It's possible that Jenny Chase—who has been tracking the economics of solar power for more than 2 decades for Bloomberg—knows more about the subject than anyone on earth: "I simply can't believe where we are with solar," she told *The New York Times* in mid-2024. "If you'd told me nearly 20 years ago what would be the case now, 20 years later, I would have just said you were crazy. I would have laughed in your face. There is genuinely a revolution happening."

I hope you find as much hope from this excerpt as I do!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team



Blue Christmas Service and Soup Luncheon

As we move through this Advent season, we remember that not everyone feels merry and bright this holiday season. For many, December brings grief, stress, loneliness, or tender memories. Our Blue Christmas Service creates a gentle, sacred space of comfort and hope—open to everyone, not just members of St. Andrew. Please consider inviting friends, family, or neighbors who may welcome a place of blessing and community this season.

We will gather in the chapel for a reflective service of readings, candle lighting, and simple song. This service will be presided over by Field Education Seminary Kim Taylor-Blakemore, with music offered by Robert & Christina Casteel. A warm soup lunch and time for fellowship will follow in Fellowship Hall.



To help us prepare the meal, please sign up in the narthex on the table by the main sanctuary doors. Your RSVP truly helps us ensure we have enough food and space for all who join us.

If you would like to assist with set-up or clean-up, or if you have any questions, please call Kim Taylor-Blakemore at 503-545-6133.

We hope you'll join us—and bring someone who may need this tender time of care, comfort, and connection.

Christmas Eve at the ICE Facility



"The government of the People of Iron ordered that the people be numbered and put on government rolls."
Luke 2:1-2, First Nations Version

The Pastors of EPIC (East Portland In Connexion: a group of United Methodist Churches in SE Portland) read these words on the day that it was announced that more armored vehicles had come into Portland.

With the intention of becoming witnesses again to the light that breaks into the darkness (Isa. 9:2, Lk. 1:78-79, Jn. 1:5), these pastors are hosting two peaceful and non-violent Christmas Eve worship services at the ICE Building in South Portland on **Wednesday, December 24** at 2:00 pm and 11:00 pm. These services will include carols, scripture, prayer, and candlelight. All are invited. Here are the details for these services:

- The 2:00 pm service will take a more joyful witness of light in the face of darkness.
- The 11:00 pm service will reflect the tenderness and gentleness of an infant that arrives in a chaotic world. Communion will be served at this service; all are invited.
- The services will be 45-60 minutes. Be sure to allow time for travel and parking nearby.
- Rain, shine, or shivering, we will be gathering. Any cancellation due to inclement weather or concerns for safety will be shared via email to those who RSVP at the link below.
- Bulletins with liturgy and music will be available via QR Code at the service and sent out via email to those who RSVP at the link below.
- While we are working with local partners for safety, we cannot guarantee safety. You're invited to participate in a way that is appropriate for you.
- You are invited to bring a battery-operated candle.
- If you desire to bring a protest sign, we encourage signs that share messages of Advent, waiting, Christmas, love for neighbors, solidarity, and the presence of light in the midst of darkness.
- If you'd like to RSVP (although that is not required), you can do so by visiting: tinyurl.com/2025ICEXmas.

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
The McDowall Family	Peace and God's comfort at the death of their son, Garrett	Mike & Linda McDowall
Family and friends of George Reiner (Ken's father)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Diane Reiner
Family and friends of Jeffrey King (friend)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Bob & Judy Scholz
Cory (cousin)	Peace and God's comfort at death of friend, Craig	Carol Hogan
Kevin (Camille Jackson's boyfriend)	Accurate diagnosis and healing	Beth Johnson
Camille Jackson	Comfort and peace while awaiting diagnosis for Kevin (above)	Beth Johnson
Nathan Alvis (grandson)	Comfort and healing	Ed & Linda Fransen
Tom Clark (brother)	Desired outcome from cancer treatment	Bonnie Bliesner
Camille Jackson	Healing and recovery	Camille Jackson
Randy Schutt	Healing and recovery	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Mary Ann Snider	Strength and improved health	Mary Smith
John Gladen & Tillie Roice	Blessings on their engagement	Staff
Annie Jones (great-granddaughter)	Thanksgiving for her birth on November 29	Patty Jones
Otis (dog)	Thanksgiving and praise for improved health	Lee Anne Knapp
St. Andrew Council and Staff	Wisdom and discernment	Staff
St. Andrew Foundation Board		
Portland Taiwan Lutheran Church	Blessings on their ministry	Staff
All who are caregivers for a loved one	Strength and support	Staff
Seminarians and theology students, especially Kim Taylor-Blakemore	Encouragement and support	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Trinity Lutheran (Dallas), Faith Lutheran (Keizer), and Our Saviour Lutheran (Lebanon)	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.

Calendar of Upcoming Community Concerts

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

- **December 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 19** at 7:30 pm, **Kristie Gladhill**, Bach Cantata Choir—Baroque Holiday Concert, Rose City Park Presbyterian, \$40, bit.ly/48Oiiww.
- **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.

Help EcoFaith Equip Climate Justice Leaders!

EcoFaith Recovery has equipped hundreds of people who have organized thousands of others for climate, social, and racial justice. In order for EcoFaith to end the year in the black, it still needs to raise more than \$9,000. Thank you for giving at ecofaithrecovery.org.

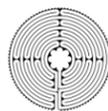
St. Andrew Contacts	Contact Information
Council President Chuck Weswig.....	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pastor Allison Bengfort.....	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Associate Pr. Colleen Nelson.....	pastorcolleen@standrewlutheran.com, 269-274-1365
Minister of Music John Gladen.....	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

Introducing Karl Gustafson

After many interviews, deliberation, and prayers, the organist search team has chosen Karl Gustafson as our new Organist/Accompanist.  He comes to us with many years of experience as an organist, accompanist, teacher, and choir director, and will be a true asset to the community. While he won't officially begin until February 2026, he will be around in the coming moments. Please extend a warm welcome to him as he begins to get to know the St. Andrew family.

Final Mid-Week for Advent

This Wednesday, December 17, will be your final opportunity of the Advent 2025 season to attend Holden Evening Prayer, held in the chapel at 7:00 pm.

 Before and after worship, the labyrinth will be available for contemplative walking and prayer in Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, December 21, 2025

Isaiah 41:5-10
Matthew 1:18-25

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, December 12

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

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

Sunday, December 14

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

12:00 pm Lunch for Christmas Carolers Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm Christmas Caroling Visits Offsite

Monday, December 15—Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Evening Prayer Chapel

Tuesday, December 16

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 Constitution Update Team Meeting St. Andrew Room

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 Library

Wednesday, December 17—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & charker@standrewlutheran.com

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

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 Christmas Party Youth Room

7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent Worship Chapel

7:30 pm Labyrinth Walking Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, December 18

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Council Meeting Offsite

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children’s Commons

Friday, December 19

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 20—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

12:00 pm Blue Christmas Service & Soup Luncheon Chapel, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 21

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

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.