

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

December 19, 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

Blue Xmas Service & Luncheon Is Tomorrow

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.



Saturday, December 20, at 12:00 pm, 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 Seminarian Kim Taylor-Blakemore, with music offered by Robert & Christina Casteel. A warm soup lunch and time for fellowship will follow at 1:00 pm 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.

Final Forum on Next Generational Ministry

This Sunday, December 21, following worship, is the final session of our forums on Next Generational Ministry and will feature a panel of members in the second halves of their lives. The conversation will focus on discipleship—specifically, what does it look like for the people of our church to discipline upcoming generations? We hope you can join us in Fellowship Hall one more time for the completion of this class!



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!

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.

Church Office Closed and No Weekly News

The church office will be closed **next Thursday & Friday, December 25-26**, in observance of Christmas. Because of the holiday closure, Weekly News will not be published that Friday. We will respond to emails and calls when we return to the office on **Tuesday, December 30**. The office will also be closed on **Thursday, January 1**, for New Year's Day. There will, however, be a Weekly News publication on **Friday, January 2**. Due to the New Year's holiday, article submissions for the next edition of Weekly News are due by 4:00 pm on **Tuesday, December 30**.



Five More Reasons for Advent Hope

I'm concluding my series of hopeful articles for Advent with good news about many species that are surviving extinction!

African forest elephants. A new "State of the Species" global assessment of critically endangered African forest elephants (different from the better-known savanna elephants) has been published. Gabon is home to 66% of the remaining forest elephants and recently concluded a new agreement for the renowned Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to collaborate on managing four national parks. WCS is also working in Gabon to install 1,800 mobile fences for human/elephant coexistence.



As Gabon saw a "palace coup" in 2023, this is a highly encouraging sign that the new leaders wish to sustain the decades-long history of internationally-supported wildlife conservation success in the sparsely populated and richly forested country.

Salmon. Just one year after the tribal-led demolition of four dams on the Klamath River, water temperatures and parasitic bacteria are down and salmon are repopulating their former range in the river. "The speed at which salmon are repopulating every nook and cranny of suitable habitat upstream of the dams in the Klamath Basin is both remarkable and thrilling," said Michael Harris, Environmental Program Manager of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. "There are salmon everywhere on the landscape right now, and it's invigorating our work." The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Klamath Tribes report seeing widespread salmon spawning within the Oregon portion of the river, including areas upstream of Klamath Lake where salmon haven't been seen for more than a century!

Closer to home, in the Columbia River, sockeye salmon are migrating earlier each spring and summer for spawning. They are evolving in response to higher temperatures in order to survive the increased river temperatures.



Polar bears. Polar bears are adapting to climate change by diversifying their diet, spending more time on land, and exhibiting new behaviors to cope with habitat loss. As the ice melts, polar bears have to spend more time on land, which forces them to seek alternative food sources. Traditionally reliant on seals, they are now incorporating plants, bird eggs, and even whale carcasses into their meals. This shift is crucial for their survival during periods when seals are less accessible due to the loss of ice.



Another adaptation observed is the interbreeding between polar bears and grizzlies, resulting in hybrid offspring known as "pizzly bears." This interbreeding enhances genetic diversity, providing adaptive traits that may help them survive in a rapidly changing climate.

Polar bears are also exhibiting new behaviors such as storing food for later consumption. A polar bear was observed eating a dolphin and burying the leftovers in the snow, a behavior not typically associated with polar bears.

Thyme. Varieties of Mediterranean thyme produce oils with different chemical compositions, and the ones with stronger smelling compounds like phenols are more effective at deterring herbivores, so fewer plants are being eaten by animals. Producing more phenols makes the plants more sensitive to freezing, but as winters get warmer, fewer thyme plants are freezing in winter.



Not only has there been an increase in the number of thyme plants, but they are popping up in areas where they didn't grow 50 years ago. Since the plant's genes determine the chemical composition of its oils, it is likely that genetic changes are occurring in response to warmer winters.

Parrots. Los Angeles is now home to thriving populations of feral, pet-descended parrots from many species. Two of these species, the lilac-crowned parrot and red-crowned amazon parrot are native to different parts of Mexico. But they met in L.A. and a novel hybrid population has emerged whose only native habitat is the city of Los Angeles! There are now more than 3,000 endangered red-crowned amazons in the city, which exceeds the surviving population in their "original" Mexican habitat.



Wishing you hope, peace, and joy in this Advent season!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Upcoming New Member Sunday

Our next New Member Sunday is scheduled for **January 11!** If you are considering joining St. Andrew, please contact Pr. Allison Bengfort (pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com). She would love to get to know you, give you an overview of the St. Andrew community, and answer any questions you may have.

Associate Bridge Pastor Is Away for a Month

Please be aware, Pr. Colleen Nelson is out of town through **January 19** visiting her mother in Ames, Iowa, along with her youngest son and grandson who live in the Chicago area. For pastoral care during her time away, please contact the Church Office at 503-646-0629 or call Pr. Allison Bengfort directly at 563-210-6304. Either Pr. Allison or another designated member of the congregation will respond to any messages and concerns received.

Thank You to Our Christmas Carolers!

A big "thank you" goes out to all those who went Christmas Caroling with us last Sunday. Three teams of carolers were able to visit and sing with seventeen of our senior and homebound members (along with a few of their friends!). It was wonderful to see all the smiles on everyone's faces during our visits.



Poinsettias to Celebrate Christmas

The lovely poinsettias gracing the sanctuary on Christmas Eve will remain around the altar on the chancel through worship on **Sunday, December 28**. After the service, members are invited to bring a plant home with you, or take one to share joy with someone unable to attend on a regular basis.



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
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
Craig (husband of cousin, Dori)	Healing and recovery	Carol Hogan
Randy Schutt	Healing and recovery	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Joyce (sister)	Healing and successful treatment	Judy Scholz
Bob Stadel (husband)	Successful surgery on December 24	Cindy Stadel
Rebecca Fako Uecker	Swift recovery from illness	Rebecca Fako Uecker
Otis (dog)	Thanksgiving and praise for improved health	Lee Anne Knapp
Those receiving ongoing pastoral care, including Bob Brown, Dave Bumgardner, Bettye Eldridge, Margaret Herder, Vera Hutchinson, Glenath Moyle, Sharon Roth, Ira (Ike) Schab, Erin Tarum, Ida Trullinger	Assurance of God's presence	Staff
All who are imprisoned	Peace and strength	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Christ the Good Shepherd (Lebanon), Holy Cross (Salem), St. Mark (Salem), and Immanuel (Silverton)	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 19** at 7:00 pm, **John Gladen**, Northwest Vocal Arts Ensemble—The Grotto Christmas Festival of Lights, The Grotto, \$16.95, bit.ly/nwvaggrotto.
- **December 19** at 7:30 pm, **Kristie Gladhill**, Bach Cantata Choir—Baroque Holiday Concert, Rose City Park Presbyterian, \$40, bit.ly/480iww.
- **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/nwvaggrotto.

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 Meet Match & Equip Leaders for Climate Justice!



EcoFaith Recovery has offered 42 internships to young adults and equipped hundreds of people who have organized thousands of others for climate, social, and racial justice. EcoFaith currently has a \$7,500 matching grant available that will match new and increased donations. In order to end the year in the black, EcoFaith still needs to raise more than \$8,000. Thank you so much for every dollar you can give to help EcoFaith meet this goal. Your generous donations at ecofaithrecovery.org will equip leaders today who will work for justice for decades to come!

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Chuck Weswig.....	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pastor Allison Bengfort.....	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Associate Pr. Colleen Nelson.....	out of town through January 19, 2026
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

Monday Services on Hiatus

As a part of her seminary training, Kim Taylor-Blakemore, our Field Education Seminarian, has been leading contemplative services of Evening Prayer on Mondays in the chapel. These services are presently on hiatus and will resume in the new year on **Monday, January 19**, at 7:00 pm in the chapel.



Save the Dates

Nourishing Conversations, led by Parish Nurse Tira Nessel, will return next month on Mondays, **January 12, 19, & 26**. More information about this event will be published in the next edition of Weekly News on **Friday, January 2**.

Bob Brown's New Address

Lindenplace Care Home
3022 NE Linden Ave. Gresham, OR 97030

Bob loves getting cards and notes, so feel free to send some his way!

Emergency Pastoral Care

December 29, 2025 - January 5, 2026
Pr. Allison Bengfort is on vacation.

For Pastor Emergencies during this time, please contact Pr. Susan Kintner

Cell phone: 503-724-2556
Email: smkintner@gmail.com

Preparing for Worship December 28 & January 4

Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23 | Mt. 2:1-12, 16-18

Highlights for the Next Two Weeks at St. Andrew

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 & High School Youth | St. Andrew: The Next Generation Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library

Monday, December 22—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 23

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

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

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

6:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Healing Sound Bath..... Chapel

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

Wednesday, December 24—No Weekly News Due to Christmas Holiday

4:00 pm Christmas Eve WorshipSanctuary

9:00 pm Christmas Eve WorshipSanctuary

Thursday, December 25—Church Office Closed

Friday, December 26—Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 27—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, December 28

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

Monday, December 29—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, December 30—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & charker@standrewlutheran.com

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1—Church Office Closed

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 2

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 3

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 4

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 | The Faithful Middle: Lutheran Theology in a Polarized Extremist World Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library

11:00 am High School Youth Group Youth Room

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.