

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

December 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

Presentation on Late Life Depression, Today



Aging with Grace, a small faith group of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, is pleased to announce guest speaker, Dr. Adi Shafir, for the meeting **this Friday, December 5**, being held in Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew. Dr. Shafir is a geriatrician who specializes in palliative care and will join Aging with Grace to talk about "Late Life Depression." Her presentation will be held at 1:00 pm this afternoon, **December 5**. This event is free and open to the public.

Hanging of the Greens and Carol Sing-Along

Join us **this 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 need your hands (and ladders!) to help 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. We hope to see you there!



Forums Begin on Next Generational Ministry

This Sunday after worship is the first session of our adult education forum about Next Generational Ministry and will feature several of our high school students. These representatives from the youth group will be engaging in a panel discussion, led by Kyler Vogt, focusing on the topic of inclusion and hospitality.



This conversation flows directly out of several topics which came up during the listening sessions in November. We hope you can join us for this exciting opportunity to listen, learn, continue the conversation, and support our students using their voices.

Spreading Comfort and Joy This Christmas

Christmas is a season of joy, but for many it can also be filled with longing, grief, and tender memories. To honor the variety of ways people may approach this time of year, we will hold a Blue Christmas service in the chapel at 12:00 pm on **Saturday, December 20**. Join us for this service of quiet reflection, comfort, and hope, followed by a soup luncheon. So that we can ensure we have enough food, please sign-up in the narthex if you plan to attend.



For those who find themselves more joyous this holiday season, you're invited to go caroling with us on **December 14**. We'll gather for lunch in Fellowship Hall at 12:00 pm, then head out in groups at 1:00 pm for an afternoon of caroling. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for those interested. Contact Pr. Colleen Nelson to learn more.

Men's Book Club Meets This Monday



The Men's Book Club will meet at 2:00 pm **this Monday, December 8**, to discuss the book *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith* by Nora Gallagher. Randy Sinn will host this discussion at his home.

At the following meeting on **January 12, 2026**, members will discuss *The Science of Revenge: Understanding the World's Deadliest Addiction – and How to Overcome It* by James Kimmel, Jr. And for the **February 9** meeting, the title selected is *Lewis & Clark Among the Indians* by James P. Ronda.

Interested in learning more about the Men's Book Club or joining the discussion? Contact Tim Holte for more information.

Council Corner

The November St. Andrew Council meeting focused on the financial aspects of our ministry. We spent considerable time reviewing a new format for a year-to-date view of our finances. Similar to the overview we share each month in Weekly News, these totals show that our expenses are under control and that revenue is exceeding the budget. This current revenue excess is a result of four large financial gifts. An important point to note is that our approved budget results in an \$80,000 deficit. This is why the monthly revenue report states that we need \$15,000 each week to meet our budgeted expenses. Unfortunately, we did not reach that goal in October.

You may wonder why we approved a budget that isn't balanced. Simply put, we had faith in the members of St. Andrew to rise to the financial challenge. We authorized expenses that allow us to share our values and ministry with our community. As our youth recently shared during one of the listening sessions, we need to tell our story and "say it loud."

This year, God has been at work through our congregation – in worship, in service, in caring for one another, and in showing generosity beyond our walls. Your year-end gifts will help us finish the year strong financially and step faithfully into the next year of ministry.



In Lutheran theology, giving is never about earning God's favor; it is a joyful response to the grace that God has already given us. As you consider your year-end giving, we invite you to support the St. Andrew ministries that proclaim the good news of Christ's love in our community. We need your financial support to help us continue to "say it loud."

Oregon Chorale Concert: Comfort and Joy



The Oregon Chorale will host its annual holiday concert in the St. Andrew sanctuary at 4:00 pm **this Sunday, December 6**. Tickets range from \$0 to \$30 (plus processing fees). Learn more and purchase tickets in advance by visiting: oregonchorale.org.

Some Tipping Points Can Be Good for the Planet!

Adapted from article by Lillian Suwanrumph in *Grist* on Nov. 4, 2025.

During this season of Advent we are reminded that "All Earth Is Hopeful!" And so, for the next couple of weeks, I plan to write about reasons for hope regarding Earth and its climate.



Recently, it has been reported that Earth has reached its first climate tipping point, a threshold of planetary change from which it's difficult, if not impossible, to return: widespread loss of coral reefs due to marine warming and ocean acidification. The science of tipping points reframes our understanding of climate change as not merely a slow and steady process but a series of domino effects in which small changes cause feedback loops that can spiral into irreversible damage. However, there are reasons to be optimistic about reversing course.

Think about air pollution and the hole in the ozone layer; something that many of you may be too young to remember. In the mid-twentieth century, air pollution was the worst ever. Remember acid rain? The world's air pollution has been steadily improving since about 1980 as countries around the world passed clean air laws. In 1985, a very concerning hole, caused by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in aerosols and refrigerants, was discovered in the ozone layer over Antarctica. The world responded by enacting the Montreal Protocol which phased out the use of CFCs, allowing the ozone layer to begin healing. It is predicted to be fully closed by 2070.



The reverse side of the tipping point coin is positive tipping points. Matt Simon is a senior writer at *Grist* who covers climate solutions. According to Matt, in some cases, the adoption of new technologies and policies may be nearing thresholds that could permanently change our systems for the better.

He says that the biggest one "is the precipitously falling price of renewables like wind and solar." The grids that are investing heavily in renewable energy are reaping the benefits in terms of affordability and reliability. At a certain point, Matt said, the attractiveness of clean energy will make its continued growth unstoppable. "We'd be seeing a tipping point here, ideally in the near future, where it just becomes absolutely untenable to install any new fossil fuel power at all."

Of course, as with negative planetary tipping points, human intervention is what will determine whether or not we cross the threshold. In the case of renewable energy, supportive policies would help to accelerate the transition and ensure it is implemented equitably. We're currently experiencing the opposite in the U.S., but Matt doesn't see this roadblock reversing our course. "Even with the Trump administration declaring war on renewables, there's only so much they can do," he said. "They can try to slow it, but the market forces at play here are so powerful that we might be tipping into a new energy regime."

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Final Week to Support Christmas Giving Tree

This is the final week for you to pick a tag from our 2025 Christmas Giving Tree that will help support 20 Barnes School families during this holiday season. The 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 in need.

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).

St. Andrew Is Putting on a Fresh Face!

Thanks to a generous donation that will remain anonymous, St. Andrew will soon be installing new siding outside of the church office on the south side of the building (facing Butner Road). If you walk along the sidewalk there, you may have noticed the deterioration of the cedar siding, which has been held together with paint for the past few years.



The new siding will be Hardie® Plank board and batten that will match the siding used on the church during the reconstruction and addition project completed in 2012. Installation of this new siding should be completed by the end of this calendar year or shortly after the new year begins.

Thank you to the anonymous couple who made this improvement project possible, as well as to all who give in support of the ministry and mission of St. Andrew!

Thank You!!
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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>
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	Carol Hogan
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
Camille Jackson	Healing and recovery	Camille Jackson
Otis (dog)	Healing and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Sheldon Leppert (nephew)	Peace and comfort upon entering hospice	Judy Heidingger
Mary Ann Snider	Strength and improved health	Mary Smith
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
John Gladen & Tillie Roice	Blessings on their engagement	Staff
Annie Jones (great-granddaughter)	Thanksgiving for her birth on November 29	Patty Jones
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 Brockner, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Faith (Albany), Good Shepherd (Albany), and Grace (Corvallis)	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 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.

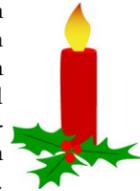
Please submit your events to John Gladen at jgladen@standrewlutheran.com and include the information for the event such as when, who, what, where, cost, and a website link.

Birth Announcement

 The flower on the Altar this Sunday celebrates the birth of Annie Jones, great-granddaughter of Patty Jones, who was born last Saturday, November 29. Congrats!

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 Nesset.....	503-866-5099	

Mid-Week Advent Worship

We continue to gather in the chapel at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays for Holden Evening Prayer, a beloved service of singing, scripture, and reflections from congregation members.  This year, we are featuring a variety of instruments, including flute, harp, and cello, and are beginning each service in candlelight. We hope you will join us for these beautiful and restorative services! Your remaining opportunities to attend are on **December 10 & 17**.

Advent Labyrinth Walking

 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.

"Prepare the way of the Lord." -Mt. 3:3

Preparing for Worship
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Luke 1:26-39

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, December 5

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
 1:00 pm Aging with Grace: Late Life Depression 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 & High School Youth | St. Andrew: The Next Generation Fellowship Hall
 11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library
 4:00 pm Oregon Chorale Holiday Concert Sanctuary

Monday, December 8—Church Office Closed

2:00 pm Men’s Book Club Home of Randy Sinn
 7:00 pm Evening Prayer Chapel
 7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, December 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
 10:00 am Worship Planners Meeting Library
 12:00 pm Bridge Group Fellowship Hall
 1:00 pm Immigrant Story Recording Session Children’s Library
 5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting Chapel
 7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal Sanctuary
 7:00 pm Community Organizing Team Meeting St. Andrew Room

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

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary
 6:30 pm Labyrinth Walking Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Mid-Week Advent Worship Chapel
 7:30 pm Labyrinth Walking Fellowship Hall
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, December 11

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
 12:00 pm Alzheimer’s Support Group St. Andrew Room, Children’s Library
 7:00 pm Foundation Team Meeting Library
 7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children’s Commons

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

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.