

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

January 16, 2026

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
12405 SW Butner Road, Beaverton, OR 97005

Worship Service:
Sunday, 9:30 am

www.standrewlutheran.com ■ Telephone: 503-646-0629

Contemplative Prayer Returns This Week

Our weekly Contemplative Prayer gathering will be returning **this Monday, January 19**, at 7:00 pm, in the chapel.



We will continue our shared practice of *Lectio Divina*, listening deeply for God's living Word and making space for stillness, reflection, and prayer, in community. Whether this practice has long been part of your spiritual rhythm, or you are curious to try it for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

For more information, please contact Kim Taylor-Blakemore by email at kimtaylorblakemore@gmail.com.

We look forward to gathering again in quiet, holy attentiveness.

Annual Sign Ups Begin for Supper Clubs

It's the start of a new year, which means it's time once again to sign up for one of our Supper Club groups! These groups serve as a wonderful fellowship opportunity to forge closer relationships with your fellow parishioners. There are two sign-up sheets available in the narthex.

The pink sheet is for those who wish to dine in homes. This option is better for those who prefer to meet in quieter, more intimate, and less overstimulating environments. Meeting in each other's homes also offers a bit more flexibility with the time and menu than restaurants might provide.

The yellow sheet is for those who would prefer to dine out with their group. This option is better for those who are wanting to experience more of the food scene in and around the area. Maybe you'll even find that "hidden gem" restaurant that you didn't know you needed in your life!



Feel free to sign up on either list or even both. Please be careful that you sign up on the correct sheet, as—once the groups are assembled—we're unable to make any changes. If you worship online and would like to sign up, you are asked to email or call Pam Jelino (pjelino@hotmail.com / 971-221-2600) with which list, the name or names of those wishing to be added, along with your contact information and any preferences (eg. cuisine styles, dietary restrictions, accommodation needs). If you have any questions, or want to learn even more, feel free to reach out to Pam, or find her at coffee hour after worship on Sunday.

Associate Bridge Pastor Returns Tuesday

Pr. Colleen Nelson, who has been away over the past month, will return **this Tuesday, January 20**, at which time she will resume being available for pastoral calls. Prayers for her safe return!

Continuing the Conversations that Nourish

An annual popular event at St. Andrew, Nourishing Conversations continues **this Monday, January 19**. At this event, we prepare plant-based dinners on Monday evenings through the end of the month. Join us for food preparation, set up, and clean up. This year we will start at 4:00 pm with food prep so we can eat by 5:30 pm and then be done with clean up by 7:00 pm for those wanting to participate in Contemplative Prayer.



No worries if you can't be there to help prepare; come for dinner and conversation. Please sign up in the narthex so we can ensure we have enough for everyone. Goodwill donations will be accepted. Any funds collected that exceed costs will be donated to the Lenten Food Drive. Contact Parish Nurse, Tira Nessel, for more information.

New Fiction Books in Upstairs Library

"Check out" these new titles now available to borrow from the upstairs library at St. Andrew:

- *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto
- *So Shall You Reap: A Commissario Guido Brunetti Mystery* by Donna Leon
- *Stormy Weather* by Carl Hiaasen



December 2025 by the Numbers

<u>Average Weekly Worship Attendance</u>	
In-person:	134
Online:	124
Total:	258
<u>Weekly Revenue</u>	
Average Weekly Revenue, including offerings, building use, etc.:	\$44,452
Average Weekly Revenue needed to fully cover all budgeted expenses and end the year without a deficit:	\$15,115
<u>Fiscal Year to Date Revenue</u>	
Actual:	\$506,245
Budgeted:	\$352,413
<u>Fiscal Year to Date Expenses</u>	
Actual:	\$351,480
Budgeted:	\$392,984
<u>Fiscal Year to Date Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	
Actual:	\$154,765
Budgeted:	(\$40,571)

Food Product Dating

Article adapted from the Food Safety & Inspection Service of the USDA.

Confusion over the meaning of dates applied to food products can result in the discarding of wholesome food, which, when sent to the landfill, creates methane gas, a powerful greenhouse gas. In an effort to reduce food waste, it is important to understand that the dates applied to food are for quality, not safety.

“Best if Used By” is a type of date you might find on a meat, poultry, or egg product label. Are dates required on these foods? Does it mean the product will be unsafe to use after that date?

Except for infant formula, federal law does not require food to be dated. For meat, poultry, and egg products under the jurisdiction of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), dates may be voluntarily applied as long as the labels are truthful and not misleading. Manufacturers provide dating to help consumers and retailers decide when food is of its best quality. Except for infant formula, dates are not an indicator of the product’s safety and are not required by law. The quality of perishable products may deteriorate after the date passes; however, such products should still be safe if handled properly. It’s up to the consumer to look for signs of spoilage.

Date-Labeling Phrases: There are no uniform or universally accepted descriptions used on food labels in the U.S. Consequently, there are a wide variety of phrases used on labels to describe quality dates.

- “Best if Used By/Before” indicates when a product will be of best flavor or quality. It is not a safety date.
- “Sell-By” tells the store how long to display the product for sale for inventory management. It is not a safety date.
- “Use-By” is the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date except when used on infant formula.
- “Freeze-By” indicates when a product should be frozen to maintain peak quality. It is not a safety date.

The USDA estimates that 30% of the food supply is lost or wasted at the retail and consumer levels, partially from consumers and retailers throwing away wholesome food because of confusion about the meaning of dates displayed on the label. Foods not exhibiting signs of spoilage should be wholesome and may be sold, purchased, donated, and consumed beyond the labeled “Best if Used By” date. Spoiled foods develop an off odor, flavor, or texture. Do not eat food that has spoiled. A change in the color of meat or poultry is not an indicator of spoilage.

Can Codes: These codes enable manufacturers to rotate their stock and locate their products in the event of a recall. Dates on cans refer to the date the product was canned. They are not meant to be interpreted as a “Best if Used By” date. Be sure to discard any cans that are dented, rusted, or swollen. High-acid canned foods, such as tomatoes and fruits, will keep for 12 to 18 months. Whereas low-acid canned foods, such as meats and vegetables, will keep for two to five years.



Dates on Egg Cartons: Use of either a “Sell-By” or “Expiration” date is not a federal regulation, but may be required by state law where the eggs are marketed. Some state egg laws do not allow the use of “Sell-By” dates. Many eggs reach stores only a few days after the hen lays them. Egg cartons with the USDA grade shield on them must display the “pack date” (the day the eggs were washed, graded, and placed in the carton). When a “Sell-By” date appears on an egg carton bearing the USDA grade shield, the code date may not exceed 30 days from the pack date.

Food Safety Questions can be answered by calling the USDA Meat & Poultry hotline at 888-674-6854. Or email questions to MPHotline@usda.gov.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

A Note Regarding Wednesdays in the Office

Martin Mills, our administrative assistant, is taking some time away from the Church Office over the next couple of months. For right now, Martin will be out of the office on Wednesdays and unable to return any calls or emails until the next day. While it may be unfortunate timing, considering the departure of our Parish Executive, this leave was planned for back in October before Carol Harker announced her resignation.

The Church Office and building remain open on Wednesdays, however! Pr. Allison Bengfort will ensure that the building continues to be open during normal business hours on Wednesdays, and will do her best to answer phones and address those walking in. We ask for your patience and understanding during this season of transition while staffing is limited at St. Andrew.



Community Warehouse Collection Drive

The Service Committee continues to collect quality, gently used and new items. Purple bins are available in the narthex through **January 25** for your donations of kitchen wares and linens.

Guidelines for what you can and cannot donate are listed on the wall above the donation bins. This information can also be found in the previous two issues of Weekly News. Prefer to donate monetarily? Visit communitywarehouse.org and click on “Give Funds.” Use that same link to learn more about all the good work being done by Community Warehouse.



Preparing for Ike’s Memorial Reception

We need your help preparing for the reception following the Memorial Service for our late parishioner, Ike Schab, who died last month at the age of 105. We’re anticipating quite a large turnout for Ike, so all available hands are needed to set up Fellowship Hall for this event. If you’re free to assist on **Friday, January 30**, at 11:00 am, please use the sign-up sheet on the coffee bar.

Ira “Ike” John Schab, Jr.



Memorial Service
Saturday, January 31
10:30 am, Sanctuary

*Reception to follow
in Fellowship Hall*

Let Us Pray

A few prayers for times such as these.

Gracious and holy God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

For peace
ELW page 76

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

For a time of conflict, crisis, disaster
ELW page 76

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Rouse us from our complacency and help us to eliminate cruelty wherever it is found. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the oppressed
ELW page 79

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

For the public church
ACS page 47

Holy God, as you have accompanied your people through times of captivity, wilderness, and exile, shelter and sustain all those who flee persecution, oppression, warfare, violence, hunger, and poverty. Open our hearts and homes, our gates and doors, so that they find safety, peace, and welcome—a place to live in freedom and without fear; through Jesus Christ, our refuge and our hope. Amen.

For refugees, migrants, immigrants
ACS page 51

A Letter from the Bishop of the Oregon Synod of the ELCA

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Amos 5:24

“The Church is a disturbing presence when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth in times when people shout out, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.”

From For Peace in God’s World, ELCA Social Statement

Like so many of you, I watched the videos of the shooting of 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good by an ICE agent in Minneapolis with agonizing horror. Our hearts go out to Ms. Good’s family and friends, and to the people of the Twin Cities now living under a pall of rising uncertainty and fear. The very next day we heard of the shooting of two of our neighbors in Portland, Oregon, by U.S. Border Patrol agents—two civilians in an automobile, apparently fleeing. The violence continues, seemingly unchecked and escalating. This rising tide of unpredictability and harm has created conditions where immigrants, those accompanying them, and federal agents are all at risk.

What deepens my concern is the growing realization that the fear itself is not an unintended consequence but has become a governing tactic cultivated through intimidation, show of force, and anonymity. When armed, masked agents operate without clear accountability, fear does more than frighten individuals; it reshapes public life. The social fabric uniting our neighborhoods and communities thins, neighbors grow wary of one another, and trust erodes. When the governing authority projects intimidation and celebrates violence, silence feels safer than speaking out.

We know that thoughtful people—including faithful Christians—can disagree about immigration policy and enforcement. Yet followers of Jesus can all agree on this: fear must never be accepted as a legitimate tool of governance. Human beings must not be reduced to threats to be managed, and authority must be exercised only to protect life and uphold human dignity. We decry all language that dehumanizes immigrants who are beloved children of God and escalates tensions between federal agents and communities.

Matthew’s account of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1–11) illustrates this truth with clarity. Jesus enters the city in deliberate contrast to the imperial procession—a grand procession displaying the power of the Roman Empire designed to awe, intimidate, and secure order through violence. Jesus, in contrast, rides a humble donkey, accompanied by peasants. By choosing humility rather than force, Jesus exposes the hollowness of authoritarian power and its enchantment with intimidation and fear.

In this moment, followers of Jesus are called to stand with those living in fear, and to refuse intimidation and violence as ruling principles. We pray for those who grieve and for all communities living under threat of physical harm, and we call upon our elected officials and public servants to seek peace with justice—peace that includes accountability for violence and the consistent protection of human dignity in law enforcement. God calls us to be witnesses to God’s presence, healing, and hope. I invite ongoing prayers, vigils, and advocacy for peace and justice, and I affirm the ELCA’s “pledge to continue our church’s historic leadership in caring for refugees and immigrants” (Read this social statement at: elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statements/peace).

Christ meets us in our fear not with condemnation, but with grace and mercy. We hear again and again in sacred scripture that fear does not have the final word. Instead, violence and death have been defeated by Christ’s love, life, death, and resurrection, and we have all been freed—liberated for compassion for every neighbor and for hope for a shared future which roots itself in the kind of justice which “rolls down like waters.”

As we approach the day in which we honor the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., we lift up his challenging reminder that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Beloved in Christ, may we root ourselves in the same Holy Spirit which sustained Jesus on the cross, Martin in his jail cell in Birmingham, and all those whose hearts and minds are joined in prayer and action for a better and beloved world.

In Christ’s holy and life-giving name,

Laurie L. Caesar

Laurie Larson Caesar
Bishop, Oregon Synod, ELCA



Oregon Synod

Walking Together Into Courageous Love

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE CAMPUS PROTESTS?

THE
PALESTINE
EXCEPTION

WILL CHURCHES BREAK THE SILENCE?
Q&A to follow film with producer Marlene Eid

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 1-3 pm

Spirit of Grace Church

7400 SW Scholls Ferry Road

Beaverton, OR 97008



QR link to trailer

**Sponsored by the Holy Land Ministries at Spirit of Grace
Friends of Sabeel Portland Metro Chapter**

Donations Welcome

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family of Matthew Brown (nephew)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Beverly Briggs
Jill Hansen and Hans Hansen (relatives)	God's guidance and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit	Alex Stinekraus
Bob Stadel (husband)	Healing and recovery	Cindy Stadel
Lee Anne Knapp	Healing and peace	Lee Anne Knapp
Mary Brown	Healing, recovery, and peace	Beth Johnson
Nathan Alvis (grandson)	Healing and recovery	Ed & Linda Fransen
Shari Alvis (daughter) and her family	Strength and peace during Nathan's illness	Ed & Linda Fransen
Roger Sandquist	Healing and recovery following surgery	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Pat Sandquist	Peace of mind and God's assurance	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Nurses at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center	Thanksgiving for excellent care during hospitalization	Roger Sandquist
Those receiving ongoing pastoral care, including Bob Brown, Dave Bumgardner, Bettye Eldridge, Margaret Herder, Vera Hutchinson, Glenath Moyle, Sharon Roth, 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 Our Saviour's Lutheran (Seaside)	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.

The Cosmic Story | Sunday, February 1, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

"If the dynamics of the universe from the beginning shaped the course of the heavens, lighted the sun, and formed the earth, if this same dynamism brought forth the continents and seas and atmosphere, if it awakened life in the primordial cell and then brought into being the unnumbered variety of living beings, and finally brought us into being and guided us safely through the turbulent centuries, there is reason to believe that this same guiding process is precisely what has awakened in us our present understanding of ourselves and our relation to this stupendous process. Sensitized to such guidance from the very structure and functioning of the universe, we can have confidence in the future that awaits the human venture."

—Thomas Berry, "The Dream of the Earth"

We are living in challenging times: ecological crisis, economic uncertainty, and political division. Tensions, violence, and constant change all make it difficult to keep grounded and hopeful. Like our ancient ancestors, we long to know: Why are we here, how did we get here, and what are we to do? Origin stories have been told in all cultures and religious traditions since the beginning of language. These stories have provided significant meaning and purpose, and have impacted how we perceive the world and God's presence in our lives.



The Cosmic Story opens us to a deeper understanding of our evolving lives as human beings through a powerful ritualized telling of the 13.8-billion-year unfolding story of the Universe. This origin story is based in cosmology, specifically the book, *The Universe Story*, by cosmologist Brian Swimme and geologist Thomas Berry. As the story is told, candles are lit to mark significant events that evolved into life through the spiral of time and space. The story becomes a liturgical meditation to awaken to the mystery and beauty of creation, and to provide hope for these ecologically, spiritually, and politically challenging times.

You are invited to participate in this sacred time of unfolding awareness, quiet reflection, sharing possibilities, and trusting God's presence. This event will be held on **Sunday, February 1**, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to join the circle, please RSVP with Ruth Nickodemus by emailing her at ruthnickodemus@gmail.com.

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
Administrative Assistant Martin Mills.....	office@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Nurses Diane Reiner	503-201-4222
Tira Nesset.....	503-866-5099

St. Matthew Food Pantry

Throughout the year, St. Andrew collects donations of non-perishable food to be distributed by the St. Matthew Food Pantry to those in need. Members of St. Andrew also volunteer their time to work at the food pantry and assist in its operation. This past Monday evening, while a team of volunteers from St. Andrew were present, they noticed that some items which are typically in stock were absent and are being requested. So, here's where you come in! Please consider donating bags of sugar and wheat flour (not corn). St. Matthew's is also seeking toothbrushes and toothpaste, for both adults and children. Donations can be dropped in the barrel in the narthex, and will be delivered to the St. Matthew Food Pantry. Any help to restock these items would be appreciated!

Rest for the Weary

Our former administrative assistant, Rhonda Powell, continues her struggle with terminal cancer. As the spread of her cancer speeds up, the time is nearing for her daughter, Charlee, to enter into an adult foster care home. These group homes are expensive, but are necessary for Charlee as she lives with profound disabilities. Please consider donating to provide for Charlee's future when the time comes that she can no longer live with her mother, Rhonda. Give online by visiting gofund.me/d9a92c15.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, January 25, 2026

Isaiah 9:1-4 | Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, January 16

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 17—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 18

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

Monday, January 19—Church Office Closed

9:00 am Be 2 Weeks Ready Workshop Fellowship Hall

4:00 pm Nourishing Conversations Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Chapel

Tuesday, January 20—Church Office Staff will be unavailable from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm

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 Staff In-Service Day Library

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, January 21—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com

4:00 pm Connections Team Meeting Library

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, January 22

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm IT Meeting Offsite

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children’s Commons

7:00 pm The Waters Rehearsal Sanctuary

Friday, January 23

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 24—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, January 25

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.