

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

January 30, 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

The Cosmic Story This Sunday at 4:30 pm

"In the twentieth century, we discovered that the matter of this universe—the only matter we know of—constructs life. There is no such thing, then, as 'lifeless matter.' Matter, in its very structure and dynamism, generates life. A similar statement can be said about spirituality. If there is any spiritual dimension in any human throughout history, then spirituality is one of the potencies of our universe, a potency laced into the elementary particles of the primordial plasma. Our discovery of cosmogenesis has led to our realization that matter is spiritual as well as physical. The spirituality of a galaxy is the galaxy's intrinsic creativity. The most direct revelation of spirit is the creative synthesis that has given rise to every entity throughout time."

—Brian Swimme, "Cosmogenesis"

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 **this 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.

Ira "Ike" John Schab, Jr.



Celebration of Life
Saturday, January 31
10:30 am, Sanctuary

Reception to follow
in Fellowship Hall

Council Corner

The first Congregation Council meeting of 2026 took place on Thursday, January 15. The meeting began with a preview of feedback from the congregational "listening sessions" held in November and December. The core theme connecting all groups is interdependence—we are all needed by each other. This information will be shared at a February congregational presentation.



Next, the Sustainability Team presented a report that focused on St. Andrew's finances, facilities, people, and the opportunities available to support our core values. We have much for which to be thankful.

The monthly financial report indicated that the generosity of the congregation blessed us in December. Our revenue was strong, and our expenses remained under control. Additionally, we received a significant donation to the PIPE fund, which covered the cost of replacing the south-facing siding.

Pr. Allison Bengfort discussed staffing plans following Carol Harker's retirement. As many of you know, Carol held several critical roles at St. Andrew, and we are grateful for her many years of service. This transition presents an opportunity to rewrite her job description, and we anticipate having a new staff member in place by June or July. In the meantime, we will be increasing the hours of our bookkeeper and seeking temporary and volunteer support.

As we begin 2026, we are filled with blessings and opportunities. In the words of our choir's anthem on January 18: "Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be."

Chuck Weswig
Council President

Extending a Warm, St. Andrew Welcome

Thank you to all the volunteers who sat in the narthex last week to help answer phones and greet people coming in during Martin Mills' sudden absence from the office. Your willingness to step up and be in service to St. Andrew at a moment's notice did not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated! Martin has now returned to the office, and will resume working Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, while continuing to take Wednesdays off for these next few months.

So, what about going forward? Last Thursday, January 29, we welcomed Ella Murillo who will be serving as a temporary office assistant during this period of transition. She will be helping out in various ways, including being present in the narthex on Wednesdays to offer assistance and take phone calls. We are excited for her to join the St. Andrew staff for the next few months as we work to reorganize and replace the Parish Executive role.

Welcome

Your Library Offers More Than Just Books!

Article is adapted from the Master Recycler Handbook.

Did you know that your local library has more than just books and DVDs to check out? When I took the Master Recycler course a couple of years ago, I learned that local libraries can offer so much more, such as a Library of Things as well as Makerspaces. I was amazed!

Library of Things. At a Library of Things you can check out all kinds of stuff. This is very useful if you want to try using an item before deciding whether or not to buy one, or if you just need something that you will only use once or twice. Tools, cameras, sewing machines, toys, games, slow cookers, tortilla presses, musical instruments, VHS-to-DVD converters, DVD players, portable electronic pianos, kitchen appliances, stud finders, and microphones are just a few examples of the types of things you can check out.

Makerspaces. What is a Makerspace? A Makerspace is a room at the library where members of the community can go to make all kinds of things using equipment available in the room. It's a place for people of all ages to learn, practice skills, collaborate, prototype, and problem-solve. Makerspaces contain equipment such as 3D printers, Cricut® machines, sewing machines, dress forms, fiber art equipment, laminators, visual arts supplies, button makers, and much more. Children, of course, need to be supervised by an adult. Staff members are available to answer questions.



Tool Libraries. Tool libraries are not located in city libraries, but they function in much the same way as a Library of Things. Don't buy tools you'll only use once. Instead, look for tool libraries. You can search "Tool libraries" on Portland.gov to find one near you.

Home improvement stores (like Home Depot) often have rental services where you can rent tools. Many of us own tools or gear that we rarely use, like a drill that sits charged for months or snowshoes that are used only once a year. Rather than letting these items collect dust, consider borrowing, sharing, or renting them instead. It would save you space, cut waste, and help you build community by fostering connections with your neighbors and friends. You can loan a cake pan to someone, rent a rototiller from the hardware store, or check out books (and more!) from the library.

Are you hosting a wedding or birthday party? Instead of buying items you would rarely use, consider renting tables and linens. You could also rent kitchen space from schools, churches, or other rental businesses. Often, the cost to rent is much less than the cost to purchase new. Search on the internet for terms like "party rental" or "event rental" and you will find affordable options all over the region. Or ask to borrow the things you might temporarily need from your neighbors and friends!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Lindsey Lane's Final Sunday as Accompanist

🎵 Lindsey Lane will accompany her last worship service as St. Andrew's accompanist **this Sunday, February 1**. Thank you, Lindsey, for your service over these past two years!

Final Days to Sign Up for Supper Clubs



This Sunday, February 1, will be your last chance 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, while the yellow sheet is for those who would prefer to dine out with their group.

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 Jelineo (pjelineo@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.

Be 2 Weeks Ready Training with EcoFaith

EcoFaith Recovery invites you to a practical, hopeful training that helps households, congregations, and neighborhoods to prepare together for emergencies so that we're not alone when crises come.



Using Oregon's "Be 2 Weeks Ready" program, this 90-minute session offers simple, doable steps for preparedness while strengthening relationships and mutual aid. Join the Beaverton hybrid training on **Sunday, February 15**, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, at Spirit of Grace (7400 SW Scholls Ferry Road), preceded by a light lunch at noon. A raffle for some disaster supplies will be held at the end. You can learn more about this event and register by visiting: ecofaithrecovery.org/be-2-weeks-ready.

Go Bold. Go Neon. Go Make a Splash!

Attention St. Andrew friends of all ages! You are invited to join the Neon Monks for the 2026 Portland Polar Plunge & 5K, benefiting Special Olympics Oregon, on **Saturday, February 21**, at Willamette Park & Boat Ramp.

This joyful (and chilly!) event supports year-round sports training and health programs for athletes with special needs. You can run or walk the 5K, take the Polar Plunge into the Willamette River, or come cheer wildly from dry land—every role matters!

Our St. Andrew team, the Neon Monks, will be easy to spot: think bright neon colors, definitely a few monks' robes a la Martin Luther, and a whole lot of laughter and encouragement. The cost to take the plunge or run the 5K is \$60, and all participants help raise funds for an incredible cause.



Whether you're fast, fearless, festive, or just there for the fellowship, we would love for you to join us. Let's show up together, support our neighbors, and have some fun while doing it!

Come be a Neon Monk. To join the team, use the link below, click on "Register," then select "Join a team" and search for "Neon Monks."

You can register for, donate to, and learn more about this event by going to: tinyurl.com/2026PDXPolarPlunge.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026

4:30p-6:30p

The Cosmic Story

A powerful ritual of storytelling, meditation, and celebration

Join us for the telling of the
COSMIC STORY
as we currently know it today

REFLECT TOGETHER
on its impact on our lives and faith
and the life of our planet home

CELEBRATE HOPE
in the unfolding Divine revelation
and awesome mystery of existence

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall | 12405 SW Butner Rd. | Beaverton

Please sign up to attend at: ruthnickodemus@gmail.com

Questions can also be addressed to Ruth Nickodemus at this email.

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Yolanda (mother-in-law)	Peace and God's comfort at death of friend	Casey Tkacz
Margaret	God's blessing, and guidance from the Holy Spirit	Cal Kruse
Criss Robinson	God's guidance in discerning new career	Criss Robinson
Dave Harms (husband)	Healing and recovery	Cindy Harms
Nathan Alvis (grandson)	Healing and recovery	Linda Fransen
Tammy Syphus (former colleague)	Successful surgery and discernment of proper stint placement	Gretchen Bancroft
Gordon Teifel (husband)	Successful eye surgery on February 4	Carolyn Teifel
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 Bocker, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially St. Peter (Tillamook), Spirit of Grace (Beaverton), and Shepherd of the Valley (Beaverton)	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.

Thank You Note for St. Andrew Foundation's Support of DEAR

What an incredible gift we received from Tira Nessel and Tom Mehlhorn on Sunday, January 18! Thank you very much for the \$5,000 grant for Daytime Enrichment Activities & Recreation (DEAR). The St. Andrew Foundation's support for the wonderful DEAR day program is greatly appreciated.

Your contribution will help pay the February rent for the DEAR program. DEAR currently has 20 precious people with severe disabilities that are cared for and entertained by 10 fantastic staff members. The program fees received from the State of Oregon cover about 72% of the expenses to operate the program, so donations are always needed.

On December 17, 2025, DEAR had a birthday. For 17 years, DEAR has been offering a welcoming facility in the community for our customers. It has been quite a journey to fund and provide an outstanding program for our people who need a place for fun and enrichment.

Thank you again for your very generous gift!

With gratitude,

Carolyn Teifel
DEAR Board Secretary

Gordon Teifel
DEAR Board President



Dear People of St. Andrew,



An immense thank you to everyone for the gifts and recognition at my retirement gathering—with a special thank you to those working behind the scenes to make it happen. It's been an honor working for and with so many people in our community over the last 14 years. Thank you for the privilege.

Carol Harker
Former Parish Executive

Helping Rhonda & Charlee

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.

January Food Pantry Totals

During the month of January, Mike & Mary Carroll delivered a total of 97 lbs. in donations from the barrel in the narthex to the St. Matthew Food Pantry. Thank you!



Meals on Wheels People

Angie Boyd, from the Beaverton Center Meals on Wheels People, left a phone message with the office wanting to tell you, "Thank you for the donation from St. Andrew Lutheran Church. We really appreciate you!"



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 Nessel.....	503-866-5099

Preparing for Worship Sunday, February 8, 2026

Isaiah 58:1-12 | Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, January 30

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
11:00 am Set-up for Schab Celebration of Life Reception Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 31—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

10:30 am Celebration of Life for Ike Schab Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 1

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
2:30 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Children's Commons
4:30 pm The Cosmic Story Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 2—Church Office Closed

4:30 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Chapel
7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, February 3

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
10:00 am Worship Planners Meeting Library
12:00 pm Bridge Group Fellowship Hall
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, February 4—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, February 5

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library
5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom
7:00 pm The Waters Rehearsal Sanctuary
7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

Friday, February 6

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Sanctuary

Saturday, February 7—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 8

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 Super Bible Bowl: The Confirmands vs. the Congregational Council Fellowship Hall

Worship at St. Andrew or Connect to Virtual Worship



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.*



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.