

# ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

January 9, 2026

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

Worship Service:  
Sunday, 9:30 am

[www.standrewlutheran.com](http://www.standrewlutheran.com) ■ Telephone: 503-646-0629

## Removal of the Greens



As we joyfully adorned our church for Advent and Christmas, now it's time to come together and put everything away until next year. This is very much an all hands on deck morning – many hands make light work, and the more helpers we have, the faster (and more fun) it will be!

Please join us **this Saturday, January 10**, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm to remove the greens and Christmas decorations from around the church. Please bring gloves and wire cutters as the garlands will need to be unwound and the greens placed in the yard waste bin in the parking lot.

Thank you for helping make our church so beautiful and festive at the Hanging of the Greens. Now, let's work together to get everything safely stored until next Advent.

For more information, please call or text Kim Taylor-Blakemore at 503-545-6133.

## Seasonal Worship Planning Meeting for Lent

You are invited to join the Worship Planning Team **this Saturday, January 10**, in the main library from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm to help plan this year's observance of Lent (the liturgical season leading up to Easter). We would love for you to join the team in brainstorming how we can create meaningful Lenten worship experiences. If you would like to peruse the resources before the gathering, so your ideas can begin to percolate, reach out to Pr. Allison Bengfort by emailing [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com).



## Carol Harker's Farewell Party Is This Sunday



Our farewell for Carol Harker is almost here! A reception in her honor will be held in Fellowship Hall **this Sunday, January 11**, immediately following the worship service. Gifts will be presented to her during the celebration.

There will also be a basket at the farewell for cards and notes. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex, one for those wanting to help with the reception, and the other for those donating finger foods to be served alongside cake and coffee. Please contact Beth Johnson with any questions about this very special celebration.

*Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Carol, who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family. Now bless and preserve her at this time of transition. Day by day, guide her and give her what is needed, friends to cheer her way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling her. By your Holy Spirit be present in her pilgrimage, that she may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

–ELW page 82

## Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet in the upstairs library **this Sunday, January 11**, at 2:30 pm with Cathy Fallon leading the discussion on *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

*"The First Ladies is a riveting look about Eleanor Roosevelt's political rise to First Lady and her eyebrow-raising friendship with civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune.... The women's friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement."* –Historical Novel Society

All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Smith.

**Future Reading:** On **February 15**, Elaine May will lead discussion on *Invisible Boy: A Memoir of Self Discovery* by Harrison Mooney.



## Men's Book Club Meets This Monday

The Men's Book Club will meet again at 2:00 pm **this Monday, January 12**, to discuss the book *The Science of Revenge: Understanding the World's Deadliest Addiction – and How to Overcome It* by James Kimmel, Jr., JD. Gary Grafwallner will host this discussion at his home.

At the following meeting, on **February 9**, members will discuss *Lewis & Clark among the Indians* by James P. Ronda. And for the **March 9** meeting, the title selected is *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.



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

## Nourishing Conversations Returns Monday!

An annual popular event at St. Andrew, Nourishing Conversations is coming back! Starting on **January 12**, we will 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 Evening 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 Tira Nessel, Parish Nurse, for more information.

## Choose to Reuse: Oregon's Law Makes It Easy!

If you live in Beaverton, you may have seen this article that was published in *Your City*, the quarterly newsletter that Beaverton sends to its citizens. If you missed it, here it is:

Oregon is making it easier to reduce waste with a new law that allows customers to bring clean, reusable containers to participating food businesses. Whether you're picking up takeout, shopping in bulk, or grabbing a cup of coffee, you can now use your own containers at restaurants, food carts, and grocery stores that opt in.



This initiative supports Oregon's waste reduction goals by cutting down on single-use packaging. It's a win-win. Customers reduce their environmental impact, and businesses save money while promoting sustainability.

### How It Works:

- Customers can bring their own durable, clean, and food-safe containers for drinks, deli items, bulk foods, takeout, and leftovers.
- Businesses may choose to opt in and follow Oregon Health Authority (OHA) food safety guidelines.
- Containers must be visibly clean, undamaged, and suitable for the food or drink. Dirty or damaged containers may be refused.
- Hot food containers must withstand high temperatures.

### What's Not Allowed:

- No personal containers at buffets, salad bars, or self-serve stations with temperature-sensitive foods.
- Businesses must avoid cross-contamination by keeping utensils from touching customer containers.

**Lead by Example:** Next time you head out, bring your clean containers and encourage your favorite spots to join in.

Remember, this is an Oregon state law, not just a Beaverton city law. Businesses may be more likely to trust information from an official publication rather than taking your word for it. Take a copy of *Your City* to show them the article; it's the last article in the newsletter, so it's easy to find. You can also pull up the newsletter on your phone, posted to the Beaverton city website at: [beavertonoregon.gov/476/Your-City-Newsletter](http://beavertonoregon.gov/476/Your-City-Newsletter). Again, it's the last article in the newsletter.

Let's do our part to keep single-use plastics out of the landfill!

*Liz Hardy*  
Earth Care Team

## Volunteer to Bake the Bread that Feeds Souls

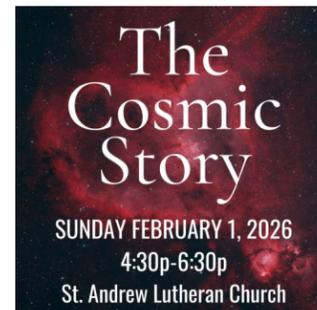


Do you like to bake? We need your talents to prepare the gluten-free bread we use for Holy Communion at Sunday worship. More bakers are needed to supply enough bread for our growing congregation. Please email Carolyn Teifel at [carolynteifel@comcast.net](mailto:carolynteifel@comcast.net) if you're interested in volunteering. She will send you the recipe along with directions. Volunteers typically bake communion bread about once a month. A big thank you to all who support St. Andrew's ministry and worship through this important task and blessed offering.

## RSVP Today to Attend The Cosmic Story

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](mailto:ruthnickodemus@gmail.com).

## Contemplative Prayer Is Returning Soon

Our weekly Contemplative Prayer gathering will be returning on **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](mailto:kimtaylorblakemore@gmail.com).

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

## New Non-Fiction Books in Upstairs Library

"Check out" these new titles in the upstairs library at St. Andrew:

- *Lewis & Clark among the Indians* by James P. Ronda
- *Faith after Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It* by Brian D. McLaren
- *The Science of Revenge: Understanding the World's Deadliest Addiction – and How to Overcome It* by James Kimmel, Jr., JD
- *God Didn't Make Us to Hate Us: 40 Devotions to Liberate Your Faith from Fear and Reconnect with Joy* by Rev. Lizzie McManus-Dail
- *A Year of Biblical Womanhood: How a Liberated Woman Found Herself Sitting on Her Roof, Covering Her Head, and Calling Her Husband Master* by Rachel Held Evans





## Welcoming New Members This Sunday!

Please join us for worship this Sunday, January 11, as we welcome and affirm new members to the St. Andrew Lutheran Church community:



**Wink** (he/him) and **Joyce** (she/her) **Brooks** are lifelong residents of Oregon and have been married for 39 years. They have five children and nine grandchildren, living in the U.S. and in Australia. Prior to retirement, Wink worked as an urban planner and Joyce as a legal assistant. Grandchildren, travel, hiking, and gardening are among their interests. Both are excited to become members of the St. Andrew community.



**Alan** (he/him) **Eliason** was born in Lindstrom, Minnesota, and was raised Lutheran. On completing his higher education at the University of Minnesota, he took his family to Oregon in 1970 where he began work as a professor at the University of Oregon. 55 years later, he moved to Hillsboro to be closer to family. His life can only be described as multifaceted—teaching, writing, consulting, and always working with new computer-based technologies. He held positions in management, computer science, and education. But it was not all work; in Oregon there are many fun things to do. Family is most important, and now in later years, so is helping others to realize their potential. When searching for a new church, Alan discovered St. Andrew. The message, the music, and the congregation are quite compelling to him.



Four people make up the **Hjelmeland** family: **Greg** (he/him), otherwise known as “Dad,” and **Kelly** (she/her), otherwise known as “Mom,” who both grew up in ELCA churches in the Seattle area. They met at the University of Washington, and were married in 1994. **Leo** (he/him), age 19, is a fan of sports, vocal performance, and Mario Kart, who is in his senior year at Aloha High School. **Ty** (any pronouns) is a 13-year-old eighth-grade artist, musician, and Genshin Impact fan, who attends the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy. After over a decade as members of a church from a different Lutheran denomination, the Hjelmelands are very happy to have found a congregation with such a clear focus on inclusion, ecology, social justice, and loving your neighbor.



**Steven** (he/him) and **Andrea** (she/her) **Schafer** are long-time residents of Oregon, having grown up in Salem and Eugene, respectively. They are both focused on ensuring their children, **Brandt** (he/him) and **Reese** (she/her), grow up to be kind and responsible adults. Steven spends the rest of his time investing in real estate, leading a Cub Scout den, and volunteering for Mt. Hood Ski Patrol. Andrea spends her days recruiting executives for Palo Alto Networks, cooking healthy meals, and finding new ways to stay physically active. Their children, Brandt (age 11) and Reese (age 9), are students at Ridgewood Elementary School and members of Cub Scout Pack 598. In addition to scouting, Brandt enjoys swimming and mountain biking. Reese enjoys ballet and cooking. Both kids love reading and have enjoyed borrowing books from the St. Andrew library. The Schafers are excited to become members of St. Andrew and get to know everyone.



*God of all, by the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into the household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new siblings as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and sovereign. Amen.*

*—Adapted from ELW page 75*

## In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family and friends of Ira "Ike" Schab Bob Stadel (husband) Jay Meredith (husband) Roger Sandquist (husband) Mary Brown Alysha Klaus	Peace and God's comfort at his death Healing and recovery Healing and recovery Healing and recovery Healing, recovery, and peace Peace and openness to dialogue	Pr. Allison Bengfort Cindy Stadel Pam Meredith Pat Sandquist Beth Johnson Lee Anne Knapp
St. Andrew Council and Staff St. Andrew Foundation Board	Wisdom and discernment	Staff
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 Faith Lutheran (Clatskanie)	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](mailto: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.

## Donation Guide for Community Warehouse Furniture Bank

KITCHEN WARES All kitchen items <u>must</u> be clean and functional!	
<b>Yes, please donate these items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pots and pans (most needed item)</li> <li>• Baking dishes</li> <li>• Can openers</li> <li>• Cooking utensils</li> <li>• Cutting boards</li> <li>• Dish racks</li> <li>• Dish towels</li> <li>• Dish sets and glassware</li> <li>• Kitchen knives</li> <li>• Mixing bowls</li> <li>• Potholders</li> <li>• Silverware</li> <li>• Drinking glasses and mugs</li> </ul>	<b>No, thank you (do not donate these):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cracked or chipped dishes</li> <li>• Dishware with ANY alcohol-related branding</li> <li>• Plastic dinnerware or dishware</li> <li>• Wine glasses</li> <li>• Metal-rimmed dishes</li> <li>• Peeling nonstick cookware</li> </ul>
LINENS All linens <u>must</u> be clean, and free of stains, tears, pilling, smells, or damage!	
<b>Yes, please donate these items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blankets, quilts, and comforters</li> <li>• Bath towels and hand towels</li> <li>• Washcloths</li> <li>• Bedsheets (no king size, please)</li> <li>• Bathmats</li> <li>• Shower curtains</li> <li>• Bed pillows (stain-free only)</li> <li>• Pillowcases</li> </ul>	<b>No, thank you (do not donate these):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linens with stains or tears</li> <li>• Bed skirts</li> <li>• Window treatments</li> <li>• Electric blankets</li> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Carpet</li> </ul>

The above guidelines are also posted on the wall above the purple donation bins by Fellowship Hall.

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
	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 Nasset..... 503-866-5099

## January Collection Drive

At the beginning of each new calendar year, the St. Andrew Service Committee supports Community Warehouse by collecting quality, gently used and new items. Community Warehouse's mission is similar to a food bank, but with a focus on household good and furnishings. It connects these donated household items to neighbors in need, creating stronger homes and brighter futures for all.

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 to the left of this article. If you would prefer to donate monetarily to Community Warehouse, you can go to [communitywarehouse.org](http://communitywarehouse.org) and click on "Give Funds." Use that same link to learn more about all the good work being done by Community Warehouse.

## A Prayer for the Poor

God of compassion, whose Son became poor for our sake: Help us to see the face of Christ in those who are poor, and in serving them to serve you. Give us generous hearts so that those living in poverty may have adequate food, clothing, and shelter. By your Spirit move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws that protect the most vulnerable in society; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

-ELW page 79

## Preparing for Worship Sunday, January 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
Matthew 6:19-34

## Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

### Friday, January 9

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, January 10—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

9:00 am Taking Down the Greens.....Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall

12:30 pm Girl Scouts Badge Workshop..... Children’s Commons

1:00 pm Seasonal Worship Planning Meeting for Lent..... Library

### Sunday, January 11

**9:30 am Worship with Children’s Church ..... Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom**

9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service ..... Chapel

10:30 am Farewell Party for Carol Harker ..... Fellowship Hall

10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering..... Chapel

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth ..... Library

11:00 am High School Youth Group..... Youth Room

11:20 am Adult Ed | The Faithful Middle: Lutheran Theology in a Polarized Extremist World ..... Sanctuary

2:30 pm Spirituality Book Group..... Library

### Monday, January 12—Church Office Closed

2:00 pm Men’s Book Club..... Home of Gary Grafwallner

4:00 pm Nourishing Conversations..... Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

### Tuesday, January 13

7:00 am Men’s Gathering and Bible Study ..... Elmer’s Restaurant on 158<sup>th</sup> (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)

7:00 am Sunrise Women..... Elmer’s Restaurant on 158<sup>th</sup> (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)

9:00 am Facility Management Team Meeting ..... St. Andrew Room

9:30 am Confirmation Teachers Meeting ..... Library

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Worship Planners Meeting ..... St. Andrew Room

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

12:30 pm Sanctuary Team Meeting..... St. Andrew Room

1:30 pm Service Committee Meeting ..... 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, January 14—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to [office@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:office@standrewlutheran.com)

6:00 pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

### Thursday, January 15

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne ..... Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Earth Care Meeting..... Library

1:00 pm Staff Meeting ..... Chapel, Library

7:00 pm Council Meeting..... Chapel, St. Andrew Room

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children’s Commons

### 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](mailto: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

## 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.