

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

February 27, 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

Did You Enjoy Last Sunday's Event?

Many thanks to the sixty-five people who attended last Sunday's gathering where we took a look at what the organizing team heard from the listening sessions held last fall. We checked to see if we came to reasonable conclusions, and offered an opportunity to start next steps. The room was filled with good energy.



Did you find yourself enjoying last Sunday's follow-up? Would you like to do more work like that? Come to a training event **this Saturday, February 28**, from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Join Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) members from St. Andrew and other institutions as we explore the role of a Core Team. Intrigued? Come and see how you can be a part of the important work of maintaining a relational culture at St. Andrew. Have questions? Feel free to ask Pat Christiansen.

New Adult Education Class Starting: What Can the Epistles Teach Us About Our Church

The Epistles are letters written by Apostles to early Christian churches, and in some cases individual early Christians. These letters are an inside look into the early days of Christianity, with all the inherent problems and challenges any group of believers may struggle with. We will look at the problems those churches faced, as well as the advice and counsel given by the Apostles.



In so doing, we will look to see what we can learn about the challenges faced by St. Andrew and the wider Church, and seek out guidance from the Apostles to meet those challenges.

Paul Navarre will lead this four-week series during the adult education hour in the St. Andrew Room, beginning **this Sunday, March 1**, at 11:00 am.

Intent Card Progress Update

Thank you to all who have submitted an intent card! We are happy to report that, as of printing, we have received 90 intent cards toward our goal of 125. Of these cards, 80% represent growth in generosity, either through increasing intended giving or submitting one for the first time. This is truly incredible! Given the wonderful generosity, if we are able to collect 125 cards, it is very likely we will meet or exceed our goal of increasing giving intentions by \$1,300 per week. We only need 35 more to get there!

If you have not yet submitted your giving intention, we would truly appreciate your participation. Intent cards are available in the narthex at St. Andrew, or can be submitted online at standrewlutheran.com/give. This year, a generous donor will contribute a bonus \$100 for every household that submits an intent card for the first time or increases their intention by any amount. Thank you for supporting the ministry of St. Andrew!

February Council Corner

Your Council's meeting for this month included a recap of the mid-year financial report to the congregation. That presentation reviewed the monthly finance report to both the congregation and Council, and had positive feedback. St. Andrew has a recent history of "faith budgeting," or, approving a deficit budget with the actual results being better. The Congregational Council anticipates that we will again have a deficit budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, but with a significantly smaller deficit than the current year's budget. When the mortgage was paid off, some folks redirected their mortgage donation into the PIPE fund (which stands for Property Improvement Projects & Emergency). Based on our current financial situation, it would be better to have those funds go into the Ministry & Mission (M&M) fund.

At February's meeting, our consultant, Pr. Julia Nielsen, gave a presentation on governance verses management. The Council's responsibilities include staying informed about organizational health, maintaining integrity, and ensuring alignment with the church's mission. This led to a discussion about communication between the Council and the many committees and ministries. This topic will be continued at the next Council meeting.



The HR Committee presented a job description to replace Carol Harker's position. Carol supported a wide variety of St. Andrew community activities, and it's been a challenge to condense the job description to include only critical functions so that we can find the best candidate.

Progress on the Council's goals was reviewed, including the hiring of the Minister of Music and the ongoing staffing discernment work with Pr. Julia.

The Stewardship report indicated positive trends, with a call for volunteers to follow up with congregants regarding intent cards.

Chuck Weswig
Council President

New Member Orientation Classes

Starting **this Sunday, March 1**, at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall, Pr. Allison Bengfort and the St. Andrew Connections Team will be leading a four-week orientation series. These sessions are for anyone who is considering membership at St. Andrew, who has recently joined the church, or who would like a refresher on who we are as a congregation and what it means to be a member.

Topics will include a brief overview of Lutheranism and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), an introduction to the structure and ministries of St. Andrew, a tour of the building, reflection on what it means to join the church, and time to get to know one another.



Take Your Difficult-to-Recycle Plastics to James Recycling

Information in this article is adapted from jshrecycling.com.

James Recycling helps keep Earth clean by recycling difficult-to-recycle plastics while empowering adults with developmental differences to find independence and purpose through meaningful employment. This organization does its part to help the environment and community by holding frequent events and pop-ups to collect material, which complements the recycling services offered by local garbage haulers. The goal is to make it easy to recycle more!

Meet James: At age 4, James was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome (now Autism Spectrum Disorder). James, currently age 27, has found his passion in protecting the environment and the welfare of animals. James Recycling helps him understand the powerful impact that recycling can have and gives him the opportunity to provide customers with a meaningful service. James has overcome many challenges and is an amazing young man.



What plastics are accepted by James Recycling? First, items need to be clean and sorted into categories. Below is a list of just some of the items they accept. Two that I would like to highlight are disposable plastic cold drink cups and coffee cup lids!

- Plastic straws and utensils (grouped together).
- Screw-on plastic caps and contact lens blister packs (grouped together).
- #1 plastics (such as clamshells, egg cartons, and to-go containers).
- #2, #4, and #5 plastics (such as cold drink cups, coffee cup lids, prescription bottles, Tupperware, plant pots, containers smaller than 6 oz., and take-out containers), which must be sorted by number and in separate bags.
- Electronics (such as laptops, cords & charges, small kitchen appliances, electric wiring, and cell phones).

You can consult James Recycling's website for more details on what they accept by visiting jshrecycling.com/what-we-take. The cost to recycle a grocery bag full of plastics is \$3, and the items must be sorted by # type within the grocery bag.

James Depot: The drop-off site is called James Depot, and is located at 5541 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, Portland; the phone number is 971-217-7444. The hours for dropping off items are 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, along with the occasional Saturday. The next Saturday event is this weekend, **February 28**, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

What happens with the plastic that James collects? James Recycling partners with Denton Plastics, a local industrial plastic recycling facility. Denton does not normally accept any household plastics, but it made an exception upon meeting James and hearing his story.

Denton is family-owned and is the largest processor of recycled plastics in Oregon. Processing recycled plastic locally has significant environmental and human health benefits when compared to sending materials off to distant and potentially unknown end markets. The plastic that James Recycling collects is processed at Denton's facility, then sold to manufacturers all over the Pacific Northwest that make products in construction, agriculture, packaging, and toys.



James Recycling

You're encouraged to contact James Recycling with suggestions on additional resources it can provide, or if there are other ways that James Recycling can make the process fast, simple, and convenient for you. Let's save the planet together, one bag at a time!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Lenten Food (and More!) Trains Chug Along

Three trains continue their journey in the St. Andrew narthex and won't stop until **Easter Sunday, April 5**. This year, we are collecting more than just food. We have a second train for hygiene products, and a third one hauling baby supplies. Local food pantries have been reporting a lack of staple foods this year as the needs are great. Flour, sugar, rice, pasta, canned vegetables, and soup are especially needed. Hygiene products such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and sanitary products are always appreciated. Baby supplies, like diapers, wipes, and baby shampoo, are necessary as well.



Prefer to give money instead? Go to standrewlutheran.com/give and select "Lenten Food Drive" in the drop-down Fund menu. Or place a check in the offering plate during worship with "Lenten Food Drive" written in the memo line. Choo-choo!

Easter Season Planning Meeting



Easter is more than one Sunday. It is the season between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, inclusive. Soon it will be time to plan our services for the upcoming season. What ideas do you have for worship? How can this joyful season be brought to life?

Please join members of the Worship Planning team on **Saturday, March 7**, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will meet in the library upstairs. If you have any questions, talk with Pr. Allison Bengfort or John Gladen. We hope to see you there!

The Sound of Democracy

You're invited to a peaceful sing-along protest at the ICE facility in South Portland on **Sunday, March 8**, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm. Raise your voice alongside singers from across Oregon in songs of resilience, solidarity, and hope. You will join with others coming together to stand up against ICE's violent detention and deportation sweeps which separate families, detain individuals without due process, and cause profound harm to communities.

Counter that hate with joy and solidarity by carrying on the singing traditions of protest movements past and present. Thirteen songs have been selected, all of which should be familiar favorites or easy to learn on-the-spot.



All voices are welcome, along with costumes! No memorization, rehearsals, or experience are required. This gathering will be peaceful, lawful, and inclusive. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. You are asked, however, to print out the lyrics sheet ahead of time to bring to the protest. Learn more, get directions, and find the link to the lyrics sheet at mobilize.us/s/BRN65Q.

In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Pr. Harvey Blomberg and family	Peace and God's comfort at death of wife, Carol	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Priscilla (friend)	Healing, comfort, and proper diagnosis	Judy Scholz
Rebecca Fako Uecker	Healing and discernment	Rebecca Fako Uecker
Cory (cousin)	Healing and recovery	Carol Hogan
Pam Farr	Healing and recovery following surgery	Liz Hardy
Randy Schutt	Healing and strength	Michelle & Randy Sinn
Sharon Fako (mother)	Healing and speedy recovery from the flu	Rebecca Fako Uecker
Mary Brown	Healing and successful treatment	Mary Brown
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 Brocker, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially First Immanuel (Portland)	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.

Grant High School Production Being Directed by John Gladen



St. Andrew's own John Gladen isn't just our Music Minister. He is also the music director this year for a production of *Mamma Mia!* at Grant High School in NE Portland (2245 NE 36th Ave). John will conduct each performance. The show will run for two weeks on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, **March 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, & 14**, starting at 7:00 pm each night. The show on **Thursday, March 12**, will be a special audience dress-up/sing-along performance. Tickets range from \$10 - \$30 and can be purchased at bit.ly/4qZGZ0d.

We All Need Support and a Meal during Difficult Moments

St. Andrew is now using MealTrain® as a simple, coordinated way to offer meals during short-term moments of need: a new baby, a surgery, an illness, or another sudden life event. This is **not** for ongoing food assistance, rather it's for those surprise seasons when a little extra care makes a big difference. If you or someone you love at St. Andrew could benefit from a MealTrain®, here's how to get started:



- Email Kim Taylor-Blakemore first** to let her know you're setting one up by sending an email to mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com.
- Create a free personal MealTrain®** at mealtrain.com and enter the details of what you need, such as dates, preferences, delivery notes, etc.
- Important final step:**
 - Go to mealtrain.com/standrewlutheranbeaverton,
 - click "Find Group Events," and
 - select "Add Events."

This connects your MealTrain® to our St. Andrew page so that the congregation can easily participate.

To see current MealTrain® needs and sign up to provide meals, you can visit the St. Andrew MealTrain® page at mealtrain.com/standrewlutheranbeaverton.

Need help or more information? Email Kim at mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com.

St. Matthew Pantry News

Do you ever wonder about the impact of the food, personal hygiene products, volunteer time, and funds that St. Andrew donates to St. Matthew's food pantry?



In 2025, your donations helped to support over 12,000 members of our community who needed help. This included almost 4,000 children. Last year, St. Matthew Pantry provided 3,300 shopping carts full of food and other items for our community members in need.

Last month, the pantry was expanded so that it could serve even more people. As a direct result, the number of clients increased from 989 to 1249—a 26% increase. 342 families were able to access food at the pantry—an increase of 34%! Your support makes a difference. So, keep filling those Lenten Train box cars!

Mid-Week Lent Worship

We continue to offer mid-week worship every Wednesday of Lent at 7:00 pm in the chapel, continuing through **March 25**. This year we are singing Mountain Vespers, which comes out of Holden Village. Each service includes a scripture reading and reflection from a member of the congregation.



An email will be sent out each Tuesday prior that will include the Zoom link, as well as a link to the congregation's copy of the liturgy.

Preparing for Worship
Sunday, March 8, 2026
 Exodus 17:1-7
 John 4:5-42

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
Parish Musician Karl Gustafson.....	kgustafson@standrewlutheran.com
Dir. of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt.....	kvogt@standrewlutheran.com
Administrative Assistant Martin Mills.....	office@standrewlutheran.com
Temporary Office Assistant Ella Murillo.....	assistant@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Nurses Diane Reiner.....	503-201-4222
Tira Nessel.....	503-866-5099

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, February 27

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 28—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:30 am MACG Training Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Sunday, March 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 | New Member Orientation Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Adult Ed | What Can the Epistles Teach Us About Our Church St. Andrew Room

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 Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 2—Church Office Closed

7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Chapel

7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, March 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

7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Children's Commons

Wednesday, March 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 **Mid-Week Lent Worship** **Chapel**

8:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary

Thursday, March 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 Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

Friday, March 6

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm High School Youth Overnight Lock-In St. Andrew building

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

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

10:00 am Easter Season Worship Planning Meeting Library

2:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal Sanctuary

Sunday, March 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 Adult Ed | New Member Orientation Fellowship Hall

11:00 am Adult Ed | What Can the Epistles Teach Us About Our Church St. Andrew Room

11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library

2:30 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

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.