

# ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

February 6, 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

## It's Game Day!

The time has come for the 2026 Super Bible Bowl! Please join us in Fellowship Hall **this Sunday, February 8**, at 11:00 am, to cheer on your favorite team and to play along. This year, questions will come from the Old (also known as the First) Testament, as well as from the worship service that was planned and led by the Confirmation students back in December of last year.



The Confirmation class has held the trophy for several years. Will the St. Andrew Congregational Council pull off an underdog win this year? Bring your coffee – and your wisdom – and join in the fun!

## News from the Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club meets **this Monday, February 9**, at 2:00 pm to discuss *Lewis & Clark among the Indians* by James P. Ronda. Larry Bliesner will host this discussion at his home.

The Men's Book Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 2:00 pm, rotating between various member's homes. Below are the next couple of months' worth of hosts and titles selected:

**March 9:** *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, hosted by Steve Claborne.

**April 13:** *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton, hosted by Tim Holte.

**May 11:** *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, hosted by Randy Sinn.



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

## Have a Heart for Gaza this Valentine Season



On **Wednesday, February 11**, at Multnomah Friends Meetinghouse (4312 SE Stark St.), from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, you're invited to hear a firsthand account of the 2025 Global Sumud Flotilla to Gaza.

Portland's own Paul Reid will share his personal experience aboard the flotilla, a 50-vessel aid mission to Gaza that was intercepted by Israeli forces in 2025.

Reid, who began the voyage across the Mediterranean in late August of last year, was detained along with several hundred others before returning safely to Oregon. He was part of a diverse international delegation that included Greta Thunberg, Mandla Mandela, former Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau, and several European lawmakers.

This event, co-sponsored by Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA) and Multnomah Friends Meeting, is free, open to the public, and registration isn't required. Donations to the American Friends Service Committee's Gaza Relief Fund are welcome.

## Introducing Karl, Our New Parish Musician

I am delighted to be your new organist! I grew up in Seattle, and began playing the organ during worship in 1975 while I was a college student in Bellingham. I have served as organist and choir director in several different denominations throughout Oregon and Washington over the last 50 years, but especially love the Lutheran Church in which I was baptized and confirmed. I am retired after teaching music for 42 years to students from kindergarten through college level.



In addition to teaching and church music, I have been active as a choral singer in several groups in Portland, and have played in orchestras and other ensembles. I love making music together with others, and am excited to serve in ministry at St. Andrew. I am married, with three children and four grandchildren. When I am not making music, I enjoy woodworking, boats, and digging in my garden.

*Karl Gustafson*  
Parish Musician

## 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 for it by visiting: [ecofaithrecovery.org/be-2-weeks-ready](http://ecofaithrecovery.org/be-2-weeks-ready).



## Ashes to Go



Take-home ashes will be available in the narthex this year beginning on **Sunday, February 15**. These bags are for those who are unable to attend Ash Wednesday worship in-person but would like to have ashes for themselves and family members. Each bag will include a container of ashes and a liturgy for the Imposition of Ashes, along with a devotional booklet and daily prayer cards that follow this year's Lenten theme.

## Stewardship Stories from Congregants

During stewardship season, members of St. Andrew share stories during Sunday worship about what motivates them to give financially. To read past testimonies given, visit [standrewlutheran.com/stewardship-stories](http://standrewlutheran.com/stewardship-stories).



## The Scary Reason Why You Should Never, Ever Release Balloons into the Sky

Article adapted from [balloonsblow.org](http://balloonsblow.org).

Most people have released a balloon into the air at some point in their life. Whether it was intentional or accidental, we've all let go of that colorful plastic ribbon and watched the balloon float away.

You may not have thought much about what happens to the balloon after you can't see it anymore; after all, out of sight, out of mind, right? But releasing balloons into the air is extremely harmful to the environment, especially animals.



Balloons Blow is an organization that provides information to educate the public about the destructive effects that releasing balloons has on animals and the environment. Its slogan is, "Balloons Blow...Don't Let Them Go!" When you let a balloon go, it will blow away. Then it will burst or deflate and fall back to Earth as litter. Balloons can travel thousands of miles before landing in forests, fields, lakes, streams, or the ocean.

Some animals mistake balloons for food. Animals—such as birds, whales, sea turtles, bighorn sheep, seals, desert tortoises, dolphins, dogs, cows, cats, and many others—have been harmed or killed after eating balloons, or by getting entangled in the string or ribbons. When an animal swallows a balloon, it can block the animal's intestinal tract, leading to starvation. Sea turtles and other marine creatures often confuse balloons with jelly fish.

Protecting our environment from pollution is very important, especially when it can hurt so many helpless animals. Here is a plea from Balloons Blow: "Please help keep our environment clean. Make the promise to never litter and never let balloons go." Even balloons that claim to be biodegradable still often take years to break down and release chemicals into the environment during the process.

While the latex balloons primarily affect animals, Mylar® or foil balloons create a different threat: power outages and fires. San Diego Gas & Electric reports that Mylar® balloons (which are metallic) have caused more than 520 costly outages along with 18 dangerous fire ignitions over the last five years. When such a metallic balloon comes in contact with a power line, it causes an electrical surge, blows the circuit, and sometimes even sparks an electrical fire.



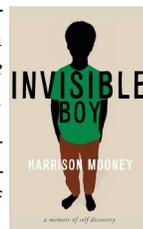
Please don't harm the environment like the people pictured above.

There are many Earth-friendly alternatives. You can make pinwheels or ribbon dancers, or blow bubbles. Plant a tree or a butterfly garden. Perhaps organize a clean-up. Choose reusable toys instead of balloons. If you must use balloons, please tie them down and dispose of them properly.

Liz Hardy  
Earth Care Team

## Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet in the upstairs library on **Sunday, February 15**, at 2:30 pm with Elaine May leading the discussion on *Invisible Boy: A Memoir of Self Discovery* by Harrison Mooney.



"This powerful memoir considers the controversial practice of transracial adoption from the perspective of families that are torn apart and children who are stripped of their culture." —[Goodreads.com](http://Goodreads.com) review

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Smith.

All are welcome to join the Spirituality Book Group for any of their meetings, which are held monthly in the St. Andrew Library at 2:30 pm. Below are the upcoming dates and the titles selected:



**March 15:** Connie Losk will lead discussion on *The Flying Circus* by Susan Crandall.

**April 12:** Pr. Colleen Nelson will lead discussion on *Faith after Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do about It* by Brian D. McLaren.

**May 17:** Sandy Koch will lead discussion on *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson.

## Volunteers Needed for Tree-Planting Event

On **Saturday, February 21**, St. Andrew will serve as the staging site for the Friends of Trees Cedar Hills and Cedar Mill tree-planting event. Join Friends of Trees to plant trees, connect with your community, and green the surrounding neighborhood! Seven trees will also be planted on the St. Andrew property during this event. If you are interested in planting trees, please arrive at St. Andrew by 9:00 am, dressed for the weather, along with sturdy shoes or boots, gloves, and tools. Volunteers wanting to join the event are asked to register at [tinyurl.com/FoTFeb2026](http://tinyurl.com/FoTFeb2026). If you would rather not volunteer for the larger tree-planting event, you can also forego registering and just help with planting the seven trees at St. Andrew.



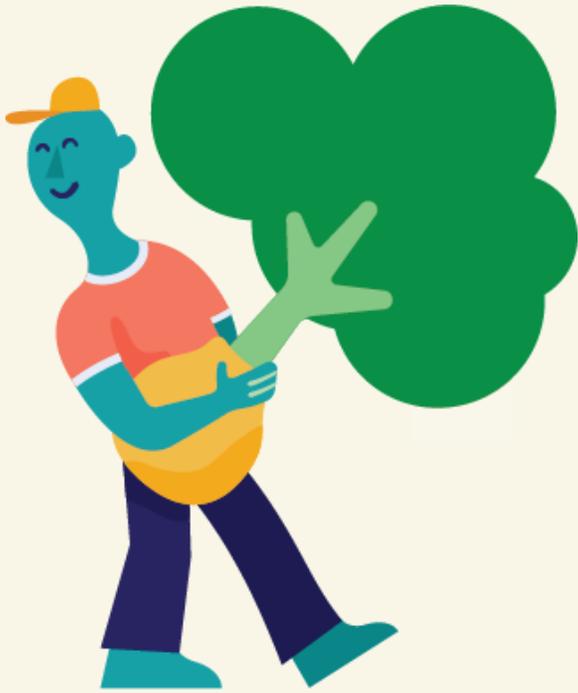
We need trees more than ever. Heatwaves, flooding, and all of the increasingly catastrophic effects of climate change make it clear that every day needs to be the day for climate action, and planting trees is a key part of a comprehensive climate strategy. For more information, you can email one of these two members of our Earth Care Team: Don Nearhood ([dnearhood@gmail.com](mailto:dnearhood@gmail.com)) or LuAnn Staul ([ljstaul@gmail.com](mailto:ljstaul@gmail.com)).

## Lenten Food Train Returns Soon!

The 2026 Lenten Food Drive will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, and go through **Easter Sunday, April 5**. This year there will be three trains: one for food, one for hygiene products, and one for baby supplies. Local food pantries are 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 needed. Baby supplies, like diapers, wipes, and baby shampoo, are necessary as well.



If you do not have time to shop for items, a link will be available on the St. Andrew website during Lent for monetary donations to the St. Matthew Food Pantry. Look for the trains to pull into the narthex the week of **February 15**. Let us help those in need during Lent!



# Cedar Hills & Cedar Mill let's plant trees!

**Saturday February**

**21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**9am-2pm**

**12405 SW Butner Rd  
Beaverton OR 97005**

**Friends of Trees is partnering with Clean Water Services to plant trees in your neighborhood. Join us on 2.21.26 to plant trees, connect with your community, and green the neighborhood! Scan the QR code for more details.**



**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**

**Jillian Malone: 503-467-2525**

**[jillianm@friendsoftrees.org](mailto:jillianm@friendsoftrees.org)**



**Clean Water Services**

## In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Margaret	God's blessing, and guidance from the Holy Spirit	Cal Kruse
Nathan Alvis (grandson)	Healing and recovery	Linda Fransen
Tammy Syphus (former colleague)	Healing and recovery	Gretchen Bancroft
Gordon Teifel (husband)	Healing and recovery following eye surgery	Carolyn Teifel
Mary Brown	Healing and recovery following surgery	Mary Brown
Daughter of Lynn (friend's daughter)	Safe and healthy delivery of pregnancy	Camille Jackson
Martha (aunt)	Thanksgiving for release from hospital and continued healing	Carol Hogan
St. Andrew Council and Staff	Wisdom and discernment	Staff
St. Andrew Foundation Board		
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 St. Matthew Lutheran (Beaverton) and Emanuel Lutheran (Cornelius)	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.

## 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](http://tinyurl.com/2026PDXPolarPlunge).



## Two Messages of Thanks to the People of St. Andrew

To all who participated in this year's sessions of Nourishing Conversations, I so enjoyed building our St. Andrew connections by sharing meals with all of you. Thank you for the opportunity to share my passion for better health through nutrition. It is also a way to share with those in need of meals. This year, your generous donations amounted to \$150 to kick off the St. Andrew Lenten Food Drive later this month. If you want links to any of the recipes we made, please message me. Thank you!

—Tira Nasset, Parish Nurse

*Thank You!!* 😊

Your generosity made our annual Community Warehouse collection drive a huge success! St. Andrew collected more than 20 bins of household items, which is a new record for our church. Your donations of kitchen wares and linens go to support formerly houseless neighbors who are getting established in new homes. Many thanks!

—Mary Smith, Service Committee

## St. Andrew Mid-Year Financial Update

You've seen the financial recap shared each month in Weekly News, but have you ever wondered what's behind those numbers? On **Sunday, February 15**, at 11:00 am, you're invited to attend a mid-year financial update. This session will explain the monthly financial recaps published in Weekly News and will also review the financial reports that are presented to the Congregational Council at its meetings each month. St. Andrew is blessed with a generous congregation, and because of your gifts our expenses are under control; but if you want to learn more, please attend this session being held in Fellowship Hall.

## 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](http://gofund.me/d9a92c15).

*A generous person will be enriched.*  
—Proverbs 11:25a

### 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  
 Temporary Office Assistant Ella Murillo ..... assistant@standrewlutheran.com  
 Parish Nurses Diane Reiner ..... 503-201-4222  
 Tira Nasset..... 503-866-5099

## Preparing for Worship Sunday, February 15, 2026

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 99  
 Matthew 17:1-9

## Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

### 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](mailto: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

### Monday, February 9—Church Office Closed

2:00 pm Men's Book Club ..... Home of Larry Bliesner

7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer ..... Chapel

### Tuesday, February 10

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

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

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

**2:00 pm Worship at The Springs ..... Chapel @ The Springs at Tanasbourne**

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, February 11—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

6:30 pm High School Youth Bowling Night ..... SuperPlay (9300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy)

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

### Thursday, February 12

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

12:00 pm Alzheimer's Support Group ..... St. Andrew Room, Children's Library

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

7:00 pm Foundation Team Meeting ..... Library

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

### Friday, February 13

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

2:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

### Saturday, February 14—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

### Sunday, February 15

**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 | Special Topic: Mid-Year Financial Update ..... 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 ..... Fellowship Hall

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

## 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.