

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

March 6, 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

Daylight Saving Time Begins This Weekend



Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour before going to bed **this Saturday, March 7**, lest you show up an hour late for worship on Sunday! Daylight Saving Time begins for most of Oregon at 2:00 am Pacific Time this upcoming Sunday.

This will be the last time our neighbors to the north in British Columbia change their clocks, as they have decided to enact permanent daylight saving time in the province. However, Oregon and United States law, as it stands, still has us "marching forward" and "falling back" each year. Daylight Saving Time will end on **All Saints' Day, November 1**, at 2:00 am local time.

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 our worship? How can this joyful season be brought to life? Please join members of the Worship Planning team **this 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!



Box Cars Continue to be Added in Narthex

Three trains line the walls of St. Andrew's narthex and will remain through **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.

Please be mindful that giving expired goods to those in need can make them feel worse in an already difficult situation. When rummaging through your cupboards for food to donate, **check the date** on the labels of cans, bags, and boxes. Food pantries may not accept significantly expired goods. When St. Andrew receives such donations, they end up being disposed. Be kind to those without resources; donate fresher shelf-stable foods, and use or properly dispose of those old cans yourself at home!



Prefer to give money instead? You can 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. Thank you for your support!

News from the Men's Book Club

The Men's Book Club meets **this Monday, March 9**, at 2:00 pm to discuss *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. Steve Claborne will host this discussion at his home.



Next month, on **April 13**, Tim Holte will host the discussion on *Harriet Tubman: The Road to Freedom* by Catherine Clinton.

Altar Flowers Memorials and an Update

Editor's note: We were unable to include the memorials for this week's altar flowers in Sunday's bulletin, so they are being listed here instead.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Susan Werner Reiser in memory of her father, Herbert Werner; and by Chuck and Lynetta Weswig in memory of their son, Erik Weswig.



Interested in offering altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday? In an effort to streamline the process for signing up to bring flowers, you are encouraged to do so at signup.com/go/GRHfNuv. Just find the Sunday you'd like, and click "sign up" if the spot is still open.

After signing up, be sure to add a comment to that day's altar flowers sign-up with your intention for giving (e.g. in memory of someone, in celebration of something). If you're having trouble signing up, or don't have access to do so, feel free to reach out to Janet Vorvick or the Church Office for assistance.

To avoid the potential confusion caused by having two separate sign-up sheets for altar flowers, we will no longer post the flower chart on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Do You Have Thrivent? We'd Love to Know!

Many members at St. Andrew are clients of Thrivent, a financial services company founded by Lutherans. Thrivent clients have the opportunity to access Thrivent Action Team grants of up to \$250 for community and ministry activities. These small grants can make a big difference for our congregation—helping support things such as the Women's Retreat, supplies and treats for carolers to visit homebound members, and other projects that strengthen our lives together.

If you have Thrivent, please add your name to the sheet on the coffee bar. We simply want to know who might be able to help sponsor a grant when opportunities arise. Thank you for helping St. Andrew continue to care for our neighbors and one another!



Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend!



You are invited to the next gathering of people from all Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) member institutions as we hear what has been happening and discern together where we're going.

The Delegate Assembly is **Sunday, April 19**, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Yes, we are the hosts again! Stay tuned for details about how you can help offer hospitality as people from the tri-county area gather at St. Andrew. We will need help with greeting people, giving directions, setting up tables and chairs, offering food and drinks, and cleaning up after the event. Please register here: forms.gle/p9tA7kosSg1GfhLb6.

Questions? Ask any member of St. Andrew's Organizing Team: Sonja Ackman, Gretchen Bancroft, Pr. Allison Bengfort, Larry Bliesner, Pat Christiansen, Amy Peahl, or Lynn Santelmann.

Why Do We Need Bugs?

Adapted from Almanac.com article by Robin Sweetser, Oct. 16, 2024.

You might ask what possible reason can there be for bugs' existence other than to bother (or bug) us? God had a plan! Judging by all the different products on store shelves aimed at eradicating insects of all kinds, the world would be a better place without them...or would it? It is estimated that there are 200 million insects for each person on Earth! That's a lot of bugs!

Yes, there are a few "bad" bugs that cause disease or destroy crops. However, only about 1% of all insects and mites are harmful. Almost all bugs play a vital role in our survival! Here are several reasons why we need bugs:

Insects are the base of the food web, feeding fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Those pesky mosquitoes and gnats provide food for fish, bats, and birds. 60 percent of the world's birds are insect-eaters, and one quarter of the world's human population includes insects in their diet.

Insects keep harmful organisms in check. Because of this, and the food they provide, some people refer to insects as "6-legged lifesavers." One wasp throughout its lifetime can eat two pounds of other insects in a 2,000 square foot garden. Spiders eat 400-800 billion tons of insects each year! A ladybug is a voracious meat-eater, and may eat as many as a thousand aphids during its larval development, plus several hundred more while it is an adult producing eggs.

Insects pollinate plants. Insects' role in the pollination of plants is incalculable. Pollination is a win-win for plants and bugs. The insects get fed by the pollen and nectar they gather. In so doing, they pollinate and fertilize the plants by transferring the pollen between flowers, which enables the plants to form fruit and seeds. Bugs pollinate 85% of wild plants and 75% of agricultural crops. Without bugs, we would not have most of our fruits and veggies! So we need to protect the bugs.

Insects disperse the fruits and seeds from plants. That is how seeds can spread across long distances without relying on wind pollination. For example, some ants disperse the seeds of about 11,000 different plants. Ants are attracted to certain types of seeds and carry them back to their nest. The ants consume the outer covering of the seeds, then discard the still-intact seed allowing it to grow. Other seeds get dropped or forgotten en route to the nest.

Insects clean up our waste too! If bugs didn't do this important job, we'd be knee-deep in...well, you know! Acting as nature's tiny janitors, insects, fungi, and bacteria break down and recycle dead matter to form new life. That's how compost works. (Out of death comes life! Where have we heard that before?) Insects clean up dung, dead plants, and animal bodies, and return them to the soil as nutrient-rich organic matter. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!



Two newly emerged and twitterpated mason bees in Liz's hand!



Newly emerged mason bees in Liz's hand, complete with small trails of bee poop!

Insects provide numerous medicinal compounds. Insects play a crucial role in scientific and medicinal discoveries. With millions of species of bugs on Earth, insects produce many chemical compounds used in medicine and scientific research. For example, the venom of certain insects has shown promise in treating chronic pain and certain cancers. Insect-derived antibiotics have been effective in treating some drug-resistant bacteria.

Insects can hold cultural significance. This is evident through their representation in various forms of art, literature, and folklore. In many cultures around the world, insects hold a special place in cultural traditions and beliefs. They are often depicted in paintings, sculptures, and textiles, symbolizing different aspects such as transformation or rebirth.

Next week, we will learn what we can do to help the bugs!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Intent Card Progress Update for March 6

Thank you to all who have submitted an intent card! We are happy to report that, as of printing, we have received 103 intent cards toward our goal of 125. Of these cards, 78% represent growth in generosity, either through increasing intended giving or submitting one for the first time. This is truly incredible!

We are also thrilled to announce that total intended giving now exceeds last year by \$218 per week. Given this wonderful generosity, we will very likely meet or exceed our goal of increasing giving intentions by \$1,300 per week, assuming we collect 125 intent cards. We only need 22 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 mission and ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church!

Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet in the upstairs library on **Sunday, March 15**, at 2:30 pm with Connie Losk leading the discussion on *The Flying Circus* by Susan Crandall.

A fictional account of the "barnstormers" of the 1920s: daredevil fliers who go from field to field in towns across the Midwest, thrilling the locals with their daring airborne acrobatics. The author explores the fragile existence of those who risk their lives in order to eke out this precarious living.

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:

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.

June 7: Lindsey Trowbridge will lead discussion on *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.



In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Priscilla (friend)	Healing, comfort, and proper diagnosis	Judy Scholz
Pam Farr	Healing and recovery following surgery	Liz Hardy
Sharon Fako (mother)	Healing and speedy recovery from the flu	Rebecca Fako Uecker
Mary Brown	Healing and successful treatment	Mary Brown
Brandon (son)	Guidance, peace, and strength after noninjurious car accident	Lee Anne Knapp
A friend	Peace and strength through work challenges	Gretchen Bancroft
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 Messiah (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.

Announcing Earth Camp 2026 Happening June 22 – June 26!

Registration for this year's Earth Camp opens on **Thursday, April 2**, and is capped at 48 campers. All spots were filled in less than two weeks last year! St. Andrew members whose children have previously attended will receive a pre-registration link prior to this date so we make sure they get a spot. If you are a member with a child who has not participated previously and would like to be on the list, contact Camp Director Kyler Vogt.



It takes a village to make Earth Camp possible. If you are able to volunteer for Earth Camp 2026, please contact Kyler so he can find the right place for you! Many of our volunteers have participated for several years, and we could use some new reinforcements this summer. Five-day volunteers are always very much needed and appreciated, however, we understand not everyone has such availability. We ask that volunteers do their best, though, to participate for at least three days of the camp. Please talk to Kyler if you're interested in volunteering for the first time!

We are hiring an Assistant Director to work alongside the Camp Director to help with organizing and running Earth Camp 2026. The Assistant Director manages pre-camp administration, aids in volunteer coordination, and assists the director throughout the week of camp. The position is part time and pays a \$2,500 stipend. If interested, you can check out the job description under the "Job Openings" tab on the St. Andrew website. Please contact Kyler Vogt to apply.

To learn more about Earth Camp 2026, visit the Earth Camp page under the "Earth Care" tab on the St. Andrew website, or go to this link: standrewlutheran.com/earth-camp.

Lutheran World Relief Spring 2026 Ingathering, May 1 – 2



Your help is needed to make this ingathering a success! You can greet vehicles as churches drop off their boxes of kits and quilts for LWR, or load the shipping container with those same boxes (some of which may weigh up to 40 pounds). On **Friday, May 1**, volunteers will have their choice of a 2-hour shift between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, while on **Saturday, May 2**, a single three-hour shift starts at 9:00 am. The Ingathering takes place in the St. Andrew parking lot near the community garden. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets posted in the narthex, or you can email Rochelle McIntire (pacificnwlrwrgroup@gmail.com) or Randy Sinn (sinn78home@gmail.com) to volunteer.

MealTrain® at St. Andrew

Are you or someone you know experiencing a short-term moment of need in life, like a new baby, a surgery, an illness, or another sudden event? Follow these steps to set up a MealTrain®:

1. Email mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com to notify Kim Taylor-Blakemore that one is being set up.
2. At mealtrain.com, create a free personal MealTrain® and include details of what's needed, like dates and preferences.
3. Go to tinyurl.com/StAndyMT, click "Find Group Events" and select "Add Events" to connect your MealTrain® to the St. Andrew page.



You can sign up to provide meals at the link in step three above. If you need help or would like more information, email Kim at the address in step one.

John Gladen Directing at Grant High School

St. Andrew's own John Gladen is conducting at each performance of Grant Theatre's production of *Mamma Mia!* (at 2245 NE 36th Ave, Portland). Show runs through next week, **March 6, 7, 12, 13, & 14**, starting at 7:00 pm each night. **March 12's** show will be a special audience dress-up/sing-along performance. Tickets range from \$10 - \$30 and can be purchased at bit.ly/4qZGZ0d.



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
Parish Nurses Diane Reiner.....	503-201-4222
Tira Nessel.....	503-866-5099

Preparing for Worship Sunday, March 15, 2026

John 9:1-7
John 9:8-41

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

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 (Main Level)
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 St. Andrew Room
11:00 am Adult Ed | What Can the Epistles Teach Us About Our Church Fellowship Hall
11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library (Main Level)
2:30 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 9—Church Office Closed

- 9:30 am Immigrant Story Recording Session Children's Library
2:00 pm Men's Book Club Home of Steve Claborne
7:00 pm Contemplative Prayer Chapel

Tuesday, March 10

- 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)
9:00 am Facility Management Team Meeting St. Andrew Room
10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm Bridge Group..... Fellowship Hall
1:30 pm Service Committee Meeting Library (Main Level)
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
7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal..... Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 11—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 12

- 10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
10:30 am Constitution Update Team Meeting St. Andrew Room
12:00 pm Alzheimer's Support Group..... St. Andrew Room, Children's Library
1:00 pm Staff Meeting Chapel, Library (Main Level)
7:00 pm Foundation Team Meeting Library (Main Level)
7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal..... Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children's Commons

Friday, March 13

- 10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm Immigrant Story Recording Session Children's Library

Saturday, March 14—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, March 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 | New Member Orientation St. Andrew Room
11:00 am Adult Ed | What Can the Epistles Teach Us About Our Church Fellowship Hall
11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth Library (Main Level)
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 (Main Level)

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.