

# ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

April 24, 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


## Searching for Truth: An Evening of Curious Conversation



**This Sunday, April 26**, is the first gathering of a new experimental and ecumenical event for young adults, thanks to a collaboration between clergy and lay leaders from St. Andrew, Spirit of Grace, Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, and First United Methodist Church Cedar Mill.

For this initial event, young adults (ages 18 - 40) will meet from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Mazatlan Mexican Restaurant in Goose Hollow (2050 SW Morrison St., Portland) for an evening of drinks, fellowship, and deeper conversation. The topic of the night is truth: How do we recognize it despite living in an era of artificial intelligence, propaganda, and misinformation? If you are interested in attending, please RSVP with Kyler Vogt and invite a friend to join you!

## Last Call for Supplies before the Ingathering

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far to help us meet our goal of 200 Personal Care Kits.  While the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Spring Ingathering is almost here, we're not quite done collecting supplies yet! Would you help us meet our goal by donating towels and soap? You can find out just how many we need—as well as size/packaging requirements—in the table below. The deadline to drop off your donations before the kits are to be assembled is **THIS Tuesday, April 28**, at 4:00 pm, so don't wait!

LWR PERSONAL CARE KIT UPDATE	Have	Need
Light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52"), dark color recommended	107	<u>93</u>
Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars	385	<u>215</u>
Single adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging	200+	0
Sturdy comb	200+	0
Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)	200+	0

## Your Help Is Needed for Kit Assembly




As mentioned in the article above, it's almost time to assemble the Personal Care and Baby Kits for the LWR Spring Ingathering. Join us in Fellowship Hall **this Tuesday, April 28**, at 6:00 pm and lend a hand to this important ministry. Instructions will be given and snacks will be provided. We hope to see you there!

## St. Andrew Members in Weekend Concerts

Janice Fairlee, who sings in St. Andrew's Sanctuary Choir, is also a member of ISing Choir and invites you to its spring concert. Under the direction of Stephen Galván, and in collaboration with Big Horn Brass, ISing Choir is presenting "Sanctuary," featuring works by Sir Karl Jenkins, including *Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary*. This concert will benefit Tualatin Riverkeepers, and is intentionally curated to create a space of tranquility in a world of unrest.

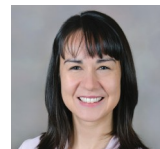
You have three opportunities to attend "Sanctuary" this weekend: **Friday, April 24**, or **Saturday, April 25**, at 7:30 pm both days, as well as a matinee performance **this Sunday, April 26**, at 3:00 pm. All three concerts will be sung at Cedar Hills UCC on the corner of Park Way and Cedar Hills Blvd., and tickets are \$14. More information and tickets can be found at [isingchoir.org](http://isingchoir.org).

Janice isn't the only member of our community in an event this weekend, however! **John Gladen**, St. Andrew's Music Minister, will join Oregon Repertory Singers to perform Brahms' *Requiem*. The Singers are performing with two pianos and timpani. Concerts will be held on **April 25 & 26**, each at 4:00 pm, at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., in the Goose Hollow neighborhood of Portland. Tickets begin at \$31.50, and can be purchased at [orsingers.org/ors/brahms-requiem](http://orsingers.org/ors/brahms-requiem). 

## The Three E's of Superaging:

### Engagement, Exercise, and Easing into Sleep

Aging with Grace, a small faith group of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, invites you to come and learn strategies that you can incorporate into your life to live longer and healthier! Dr. Laura Byerly, an OHSU Geriatrician, will be sharing "Superaging 3Es: Engagement, Exercise, and Easing into Sleep." In this session, Dr. Byerly will share current evidence for healthy aging strategies and give practical tips that can help improve your quality of life.



Dr. Byerly is a geriatrician at Oregon Health & Science University. She cares for older adults in primary care and nursing home settings. Dr. Byerly is passionate about age-friendly education, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

As the program director for the HRSA-supported Oregon Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), she leads a team that develops and implements curriculum and programming to train and improve care for older adults in tribal, underserved, and rural communities.

This presentation will be **next Friday, May 1**, at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. It is free to attend, no registration is required, and all are welcome! If you have questions, contact Hilary Hutchinson at [hilaryhutch@yahoo.com](mailto:hilaryhutch@yahoo.com).

## April Council Corner Update

On the morning of Saturday, April 11, your Council attended a workshop in the Children's Commons with Pr. Julia Nielsen, St. Andrew's Synod Consultant. The focus of that workshop was staffing. We spent time talking about what trends are going on outside of St. Andrew. Then, we discussed how membership/size impacts staffing and roles within a church. Finally, we talked about options for said staffing roles. The goal of the workshop was not to make decisions but to establish a common vocabulary and expand our possibilities.

The April Council meeting held on Thursday, April 16, started with conversation about the workshop. The Council also reviewed the monthly finance report for March. Expenses continue to be under control and revenue is trending well. The Council was optimistic about the year-end results.

The Budget Committee presented their proposed 2026-27 Ministry & Mission budget. The revenue increase is based on data from FellowshipOne. Expenses are remarkably similar to this current year's total budget numbers. The bottom line of the proposed budget is still a deficit, but is significantly less than the 2025-26 budget's deficit. This result is consistent with the Council's stewardship campaign vision that will result in a balanced budget for 2027-28. The Budget Committee will present their final budget to the Council at its May meeting. The budget will then be presented to the congregation on **Sunday, June 7**, and voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting being held on **Tuesday, June 16**.



Based on the 2024 Finance Review Committee's recommendation, the Council approved the recommendation to shift the timing of the financial review from spring to fall. This will begin in fall 2026.

Pr. Allison Bengfort shared the status of the Church Administrator position. The job is posted and we are receiving applications! The interview committee is being formed and will start its work soon.

St. Andrew is blessed with possibility.

*Chuck Weswig*  
Council President

## May Day Strong:

### Informal Pre-Gathering for People of Faith

Across the country on **Friday, May 1**, people are rising together to say that our communities matter more than profit, our democracy matters more than concentrated power, and our future depends on how we care for one another now. Join communities across Oregon at the Salem capitol as part of the national protests that day. We will stand up for people over power and profits. EcoFaith Recovery invites you to stop by St. Mark Lutheran Church (790 Marion St., NE) in Salem to make a sign and enjoy some light refreshments on your way to the festival, rally, and march. You can learn more and RSVP at [ecofaithrecovery.org/maydaystrong](http://ecofaithrecovery.org/maydaystrong).

A clergy pre-gathering offered by Together Lab will take place at the same location. Let's be visible as people of faith as we build the relationships we need to work for justice! To find other May Day Strong events near you, go to [maydaystrong.org](http://maydaystrong.org).



## Following Up on Multigen. Listening Session

What's up with the recent conversations we had about being an intentionally multigenerational church? At the end of February, many members of the congregation met to hear the results of the listening sessions held the previous fall. We identified themes that our older and younger members had in common and identified a number of low-cost activities that can help St. Andrew work toward this goal.



Congregation members also indicated activities that they are interested in and those which they are willing to help organize. From that list, the Community Organizing Team identified five activities to start with which had the highest number of people willing to pitch in:

- \* **Fan clubs:** Organize groups of congregational members to attend sporting, arts, and other events that St. Andrew members are part of, focusing first on supporting our youth.
- \* **Babysitting:** Offer space and time for the parents of our younger families to leave their children in a trusted place (at St. Andrew) during various events. The Under-40 Supper Club was the first to take advantage of this.
- \* **Generation-specific supper clubs:** These clubs are already forming, as we now have an Under-40 Supper Club as well as an ages 40-55 Supper Club!
- \* **Pew swapping:** Sit in a different place on Sunday – stay tuned for more details!
- \* **Progressive worship:** Pr. Allison Bengfort and the Worship Planning Team have spoken with our youth on this subject, and more conversations will be forthcoming.

The Community Organizing Team will continue to work with congregation members to identify leaders and launch these activities. The goal of the Community Organizing Team is not to take these on ourselves; rather, to help equip congregation members to lead those activities that are meaningful to them.

## Thank You for Hosting Buy Nothing Swap



*From left to right: Heather and Lindsay smile during set-up for the swap event.*

Thank you for making the Buy Nothing swap event on April 11 a success! More than 100 people came to share and receive items from their neighbors. Volunteers took the leftovers to local organizations, including the Beaverton School District's Clothes for Kids, Blanchet House, Adorned in Grace, Second Edition Resale, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and SCRAP Creative Reuse. Our neighbors got to know each other better, meet their needs sustainably, and give back to the community!

Thank you!  
*Heather & Lindsay*

## Did You Recently Give Towels for LWR Kits?

We're looking for the person who donated an Amazon package with four towels to be used in the Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Regrettably, the towels given are 30" by 60", which exceeds LWR's size limits. If you would like to return them so you can be refunded, they have been left next to the LWR donation box in the narthex.



## The Environmental Impact of Fast Fashion, Part I

Adapted from an article posted to [Earth.org](https://www.earth.org) in February 2026.

Fast fashion—a term now central to discussions on sustainability and environmental consciousness—refers to a business model characterized by the rapid design, production, and marketing of inexpensive clothing. Fast fashion companies focus on low-cost garments that replicate the latest fashion trends, quickly pushing them into stores to capitalize on these trends, permitting retailers to offer a greater variety of products in large quantities, and allowing consumers to get more fashion options at a low price.

**The dark side of fast fashion:** Fast fashion is the second largest consumer of water globally, and is responsible for about 10% of global carbon emissions; more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined, and as much as the emissions generated by the entire European Union. The industry dries up water resources and pollutes rivers and streams, while 85% of all textiles go to dumps each year. Even washing clothes releases 500,000 tons of microfibers into the ocean each year, the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles!

The three main drivers of the industry's global pollution impacts are dyeing and finishing (36%), yarn preparation (28%), and fiber production (15%). Fiber production has the largest impact on freshwater withdrawal and ecosystem quality due to cotton cultivation, while the dyeing/finishing and yarn preparation stages have the highest impacts on resource depletion, due to the energy-intensive processes based on fossil fuel energy.

According to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, by 2030, emissions from textile manufacturing alone are projected to skyrocket by 60%.

The amount of time it takes for a product to go through the supply chain, from design to purchase, is called lead time. In 2012, Zara (a Spanish fast fashion retailer) was able to design, produce, and deliver a new garment in two weeks; Forever 21 in six weeks; and H&M in eight weeks. Newer industry player Shein, a major Chinese fast fashion company, has garments ready to be sold in just ten days. This results in the fashion industry producing obscene amounts of waste!

Unfortunately, the industry's problems are often unknown or overlooked by consumers.

**Is slow fashion the solution?** Slow fashion is the widespread reaction to fast fashion and its environmental impact, arguing for hitting the brakes on excessive production, overcomplicated supply chains, and mindless consumption. It is a shift from quantity of clothing in a wardrobe to quality clothing that will last a long time, and it advocates for manufacturing that respects people, the environment, and animals.

The World Resources Institute suggests that companies need to design, test, and invest in business models that reuse clothes and produce clothes that last longer. The UN has launched the Alliance for Sustainable Fashion to address the damages caused by fast fashion.

One way shoppers are reducing their consumption of fast fashion is by buying from second-hand sellers like consignment and thrift shops. I have found some really nice clothes for a fraction of the original price that are like new at GHM Boutique right here in Beaverton. There are many other second-hand clothing shops as well; look for one near you!



*Fast fashion generates mountains of waste.*

The best advice on reducing the environmental impact of fast fashion comes from Patsy Perry, Senior Lecturer in fashion marketing at the University of Manchester, who says, "Less is always more."

More on the environmental and social impacts of fast fashion in part two of this article next week.

*Liz Hardy*  
Earth Care Team

## Connecting with the Woodlands & Wetlands

St. Andrew is blessed to not only have a beautiful place to worship and enjoy fellowship, but to also have more than seven acres of riparian forest and wetland. The Earth Care Team invites you to engage more fully with this beautiful space through upcoming events planned to allow you to "Come Home to Earth."

### Nature Walks:

Experience the St. Andrew woods into and beyond the Sanctuary of the Firs. We will offer mindful walks to connect mind, body, and spirit to nature. Mindful walks in nature have been known to reduce stress, improve mental clarity, and boost emotional balance. Earth Care Team members will guide participants in this experience as we focus on breath, body, and environment.

#### Mindful Walks

- Connect with mind, body, and spirit in St. Andrew's woods
- Thursday, April 30**, 11:00 am – 11:30 am
- Thursday, May 14**, 11:00 am – 11:30 am

For those who wonder what is beyond the well-worn path to the Sanctuary of the Firs we will offer an Adventure Walk. You will see how beavers have shaped the wetland, and appreciate the ongoing work volunteers at St. Andrew and our community partners are doing to restore the property to its native state.

#### Adventure Walk

- Visit the rugged areas of the St. Andrew woods
- May be strenuous
- Wear boots
- Saturday, May 9**, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

### All-Generation Earth Camp:

You are never too young, or too old, to come home to Earth. The Earth Care Team is offering an opportunity for everyone to experience the fun and learning that occurs at our annual children's Earth Camp. On **Sunday, June 14**, at 11:00 am, participate in interactive teaching stations, crafts, music, and celebration. Lunch will be provided for those who sign up in advance.

Look for more information about these events in upcoming Weekly News articles, and on the Earth Care bulletin board across from the coffee bar.

*LuAnn Staul*  
Earth Care Team Chair

## In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Family of Israel Rodriguez	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Pr. Allison Bengfort
Family of Sheldon Leppert (nephew)	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Judy Heidinger
Family of Pat Truax (friend)	Peace and God's comfort at her death	Claudia Parsons
Ezra (friend's nephew)	Accurate diagnosis and healing	Beverly Briggs
Larry Bliesner (husband)	Healing and recovery	Bonnie Bliesner
SV (coworker)	Healing and recovery	Sonja Ackman
Alyssa (friend)	Recovery from illness and peace	Alex Stinekraus
Chris Brass (friend)	Successful cancer treatment	Camille Jackson
Kevin (partner)	Successful cancer treatment	Camille Jackson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	Blessings on our ministry	Staff
ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry	Strength and wisdom	Staff
ELCA Church Council and Staff	Courage and wisdom	Staff
Ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners in ministry	Blessings on their work	Staff
Loved ones in need of ongoing prayer, including Tandy Brooks, Stacye Erickson, Rhonda Powell, Jennifer Shaw, Arden Tarum, Megan Webber	Healing and assurance of God's presence	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Central (Portland), Peace (Portland), Portsmouth Trinity (Portland), St. Mark (Portland), St. Paul (Portland), Salt and Light (Portland), Hoodland (Brightwood), and Trinity (Gresham)	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.

### Additional Prayer Requests from Easter Weekend



During the sudden absence of St. Andrew's Administrative Assistant, Martin Mills, it appears we mistakenly failed to add any of the prayer requests that were received over the Easter weekend to the above list. We appreciate your grace and understanding for that unfortunate error, and ask everyone's prayers for the following intentions:

- Allison Katsufakis requests prayers of peace and God's comfort for **Joe & Sierra Westover** at the death of Lori Westover.
- Lee Anne Knapp requests prayers of peace and God's comfort for **the Zmuda family** at the death of Coral's mother, as well as the death of their dog, Bella.
- Prayers of healing, recovery, and peace through difficult cancer treatment for **Craig**, the former partner of Carol Hogan's cousin.
- Prayers of healing and recovery for Carol Hogan's **sister-in-law**.
- Prayers of healing and recovery for **Susan Hill**, sister of Judy Scholz.
- Prayers of successful cancer treatment for **Joyce Bianucci**, sister of Judy Scholz.
- Prayers of safety and strength for **Linda O'Bryant**, the mother of Lee Anne Knapp's friend.

### A Prayer before Travel for St. Andrew's Confirmation Retreat

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide our confirmands and their chaperones as they set out for their confirmation retreat this afternoon. Make their ways safe and their homecomings joyful, and bring us all at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

—Adapted from ELW page 331

### MACG Orientation

Ready to turn community concerns into concrete action? You're invited to join a free interactive orientation that will teach you about Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) and give you opportunities to practice organizing skills, engage in real conversation, and connect with others who care about creating positive change in our area. This training will be held via Zoom **this Thursday, April 30**, from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Learn more and register at [macg.org/4\\_30\\_26\\_orientation](https://macg.org/4_30_26_orientation).



For short-term moments of need create a free personal MealTrain®, or sign up to provide meals, at [mealtrain.com/groups/standrewlutheranbeaverton](https://mealtrain.com/groups/standrewlutheranbeaverton).

For more information, or to notify when creating a new one, email [mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com).

### Preparing for Worship Sunday, May 3, 2026

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
John 14:1-14

### St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Chuck Weswig.....	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pr. Allison Bengfort .....	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Assoc. 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 Nasset .....	503-866-5099

## Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

### Friday, April 24

10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall  
3:00 pm Confirmands leave for Beach Retreat ..... St. Andrew Parking Lot

### Saturday, April 25—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

1:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary  
3:00 pm Confirmands return from Beach Retreat ..... St. Andrew Parking Lot

### Sunday, April 26

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 – ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home..... Fellowship Hall  
11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth ..... Library (Main Level)  
11:00 am High School Youth Group ..... Youth Room  
5:30 pm Young Adults Ecumenical Event ..... Mazatlan Mexican Restaurant (2050 SW Morrison St., Portland)

### Monday, April 27

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

### Tuesday, April 28

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)  
10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall  
12:00 pm Bridge Group..... Fellowship Hall  
2:30 pm FellowshipOne GO Meeting ..... Library (Main Level)  
5:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous Meeting..... Chapel  
6:00 pm Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Kit Assembly ..... Fellowship Hall, Kitchen  
7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal..... Sanctuary

### Wednesday, April 29—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to [office@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:office@standrewlutheran.com) & [assistant@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:assistant@standrewlutheran.com)

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

### Thursday, April 30

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne ..... Fellowship Hall  
11:00 am Earth Care – Mindful Walks ..... Trail to Sanctuary of the Firs  
1:00 pm Staff Meeting ..... Chapel, Library (Main Level)  
7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children's Commons

### Friday, May 1

8:00 am Lutheran World Relief Spring Ingathering ..... Community Garden Parking Lot, Kitchen, St. Andrew Room  
10:00 am Tai Chi ..... Fellowship Hall  
1:00 pm Aging with Grace: The Three E's of Superaging ..... Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, May 2—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to [pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com](mailto:pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com)

9:00 am Lutheran World Relief Spring Ingathering ..... Community Garden Parking Lot  
9:00 am Nifty Notters ..... Fellowship Hall  
1:00 pm Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal ..... Sanctuary

### Sunday, May 3

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 – ProFuture Faith: The Prodigal Species Comes Home..... Fellowship Hall  
11:00 am Confirmation for Middle School Youth ..... Library (Main Level)  
11:00 am High School Youth Group ..... Youth Room  
11:00 am The Waters Band Rehearsal..... Sanctuary

## 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.