

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

May 29, 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

Join Virtual Oregon Synod Worship, May 30

You're invited to attend a synod-wide worship service **tomorrow, May 30**, at 10:30 am on Zoom! The annual Oregon Synod Assembly, which serves as the governing body for all ELCA parishes in the state, is happening this weekend. Since this year's assembly is held online, Lutherans throughout Oregon have the opportunity to gather for worship from anywhere! Find the links to register for worship and download the bulletin by going to oregonsynod.org/about/assembly.



End-of-Year Brunch Potluck Is This Sunday!

You are invited to celebrate the successful completion of another academic year with a brunch potluck in Fellowship Hall **this Sunday, May 31**. We'll start after worship and end by 12:30 pm. As you are able, please bring something brunchy – deviled eggs, scones, fruit, pastries, cheese, muffins, etc. If bringing a dish is beyond your means or bandwidth right now, please come anyway to celebrate with your St. Andrew family! At this year-end brunch, we will especially be thanking the many, many volunteers who make our various ministries possible.



As always, help with clean-up is much appreciated. Can you stay for a few extra minutes to take down tables and chairs, help with washing dishes, or other general clean-up? Everyone involved will be most grateful.

Young Adults Ecumenical Event This Sunday

Last month was our first attempt at an ecumenical event for young adults, combining forces with Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, Spirit of Grace, and Christ United Methodist Church Cedar Mill. The next installment in this series of experimental events will be at 5:30 pm **this Sunday, May 31**, at Christ UMC Cedar Mill (12755 NW Dogwood St, Portland).

This month's host is Pr. Paul Richards-Kuan, who will be leading a discussion entitled "Would Jesus Be a Capitalist?" Join us for food and fascinating conversation together as we build relationships with young adults from these other similar faith communities.

We can arrange for child care, hosted at St. Andrew, if that would be helpful for you to be able to attend. Contact Kyler Vogt to let him know if you are interested in joining the discussion!



Your Help Is Needed at Earth Camp 2026!



For this year's Earth Camp to succeed, we need ALL members of St. Andrew to pitch in. Multiple-day volunteers are most needed, but even if your availability is more limited, please still reach out!

Check your calendar for the week of **June 22-26**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm each day, and contact Kyler Vogt to volunteer!

May Council Corner News

The focus of this month's Council meeting was preparation for the Annual Meeting next month. The monthly finance report indicated that St. Andrew is in good financial shape, with expenses remaining under budget. We anticipate having a surplus at the end of this fiscal year. We discussed the need to fund adequate reserves, and the Council will make a decision on this in July after the year-end financial review is completed.

The Council approved the 2026-2027 budget, which will be presented to the congregation at the budget forum on **June 7**, and voted on at the Annual Meeting on **June 16**. The budgeted expenses include salary and benefit increases for our dedicated staff, and are very similar to the current year's budget numbers. The benevolence percentage remains at 10% of the total budget, but the allocation of those funds is changing: The Service Committee receives 2% instead of 1.5%, and the Oregon Synod receives 8% instead of 8.5%. The anticipated offering income is increased compared to the prior year, reflecting the success of the recent stewardship campaign. Overall, the result is another budget deficit, but it is about half of last year's budget deficit, consistent with the Council's decision last December to incrementally reduce the deficit in each successive year's budget.

The Nominations Committee presented five excellent candidates for three-year terms on Council starting in June. The nominations include a few current members who can serve another term, as well as some new members. This slate of candidates is ideal, as it balances experience with fresh perspectives. We can expect a strong Congregational Council next year.

The Council reviewed the agenda for the Annual Meeting, which will include a presentation on this year's Council goals by Vice President Allison Katsufakis.

The search team for the Church Administrator position reported that they are currently interviewing several strong candidates. It will be wonderful to have this position filled for the next fiscal/operating year.



St. Andrew continues to be blessed with possibilities!

Chuck Weswig
Council President

Reverend Randy Schutt



Celebration of Life
Saturday, May 30
2:00 pm, Sanctuary

*Reception to follow
in Fellowship Hall*

Reasons for Hope: Reforestation in Spain and Madagascar

Article is adapted from the Forests episode of Shared Planet, a PBS series. You can view the episode at pbs.org/video/forests-kb1p1a.

Forests regulate our climate, create oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, protect the soil, and are essential to the global water supply. While we are losing forests around the world, some of us are learning to share the forest, creating better lives for both animals and humans.

Spain: In Southeastern Spain, local people are working to save their land and their wildlife neighbors. The Mediterranean forests are not as lush as those in subtropical jungles, but they are a biodiversity hotspot. They are the ideal habitat for rabbits, the main prey of the region's top predator, the Iberian lynx.



The Iberian lynx is known for its beauty and mysterious nature. But the species is in trouble; there are fewer than 2,000 Iberian lynx left in the wild because their forest habitat is disappearing. These forests, known as *dehesa*, have been carefully created by humans over the centuries.

The cork oak trees that grow there are used for cork production, and, under the trees, the vegetation is grazed by livestock, creating open meadows with almost as much plant diversity as the Amazon jungle.

But, for decades, the people have been moving off of the land. So the *dehesa* is not being maintained and invasive pine trees have moved in, killing the vegetation around them. Pine trees were introduced to the area more than 100 years ago for their pine nuts. The pines have spread everywhere and suck up so many nutrients that nothing else can grow, leaving less food for the rabbits, which in turn leaves less food for the lynx. Also, a sea of pine trees is highly flammable. Now, twice as much forest burns each year compared to 20 years ago.

80 percent of the world's cork comes from the *dehesa* region on the Iberian Peninsula, providing a good living for farmers and keeping the land healthy for wildlife. The cork oaks also protect the land from fire. The cork oak trees are widely spaced, surrounded by low ground cover, and have incredibly thick bark, making them naturally fire resistant.



To protect the land, the locals are cutting down all the highly flammable pines. More people are beginning to return to the land, removing the pines, and planting cork oak trees, as well as other native plants and trees. Cork is harvested from the trees every nine years. Biodiversity is returning to the region. Litters of new baby lynx cubs are appearing. The relationship between people and forests is working!

Madagascar: People around the world are discovering that protecting forests for wildlife improves their welfare as well. In southeastern Madagascar, Ranomafana National Park was established in 1991 following the rediscovery of the greater bamboo lemur. The greater bamboo lemur had long been thought to be extinct, as it had not been seen for years. Ranomafana National Park was established to protect not only the twenty species of lemurs that live there, but also many other animals, of which many are endemic to Madagascar, meaning that the island is the only place on Earth where these species live.

As in other impoverished parts of the world, people are burning and clearing forested land so they can grow crops to survive. The average income in Madagascar is less than \$50 a month, so they cut the forest to grow food. But the crops quickly deplete the soil of nutrients, and every few years they have to cut down more forest to create more farmland. At one time, the entire island of Madagascar was mostly rainforest, but now, 80 percent of that forest is gone.



Some of the villagers who live near Ranomafana National Park wanted to find a way to survive without destroying the forest. Orchids grow readily in Madagascar; there is one orchid that has an especially high value to humans: vanilla.

The locals living next to the national park decided to try vanilla farming around the perimeter of the park. Planting vanilla is important to the people because they can make a good living by it. Vanilla is a vine that needs shade and trees to grow on, so the farmers are protecting and planting trees as well as vanilla.

While many orchids are native to Madagascar, vanilla is not one of them, so they aren't pollinated by insects. Each vanilla flower must be pollinated by hand so the plant can produce vanilla beans! Each flower needs to be opened up by hand to access and disperse the pollen. Families are harvesting as much as \$500 worth of vanilla in a season, which is more than many Madagascans make in a year. It's motivating many in the region to take up vanilla farming. Nearly half a million native trees have been planted in recent years! Good news for the lemurs, the forest, the people, and the planet!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet in the upstairs library on **Sunday, June 7**, at 2:30 pm, with Lindsey Trowbridge leading 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.

This book chronicles one year the author spent attempting to live as a woman according to some literal (and not so literal) interpretations of the Bible. Through interviews with Orthodox Jewish women, Christian scholars, and others, she attempts to distinguish between what is Biblical and what is cultural.

Looking ahead, below are the upcoming titles selected for each of the next five months. Exact dates and discussion leaders are to be announced.

July: *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers: A Novel* by Jesse Q. Sutanto

August: *54 Miles: A Novel* by Leonard Pitts, Jr.

September: *Human Nature: Nine Ways to Feel about Our Changing Planet* by Kate Marvel

October: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

November: *Born Survivors: Three Young Mothers and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage, Defiance, and Hope* by Wendy Holden



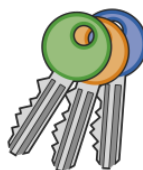
In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Priscilla (friend)	Comfort, pain relief, and manageable treatment plan	Judy Scholz
Lee Anne Knapp	Continued healing and recovery following dog bite	Lee Anne Knapp
Bill Roos (husband)	Continued healing and recovery following kidney stones	Sharon Roos
Carol Hogan	Guidance and strength in navigating current life changes	Carol Hogan
Brian & Lori Tubbs (brother & sister-in-law)	Healing and recovery after being struck by a vehicle	Francine Cach
Patty Jones	Healing and recovery following surgery on May 22	Patty Jones
Brian (son)	Healing and recovery	Dianne Zupunski
Jeff Steinkeler	Healing and successful cancer treatment	Gary Grafwallner
Joyce Bianucci (sister)	Relief and strength while awaiting start of cancer treatment	Judy Scholz
Stacye Erickson (cousin)	Peace, strength, and healing from new round of cancer treatment	Dana Taylor-Blakemore
Kevin (partner)	Strength during cancer treatment	Camille Jackson
Triniti Gossett (granddaughter)	Successful surgery	Donna & Warren McAlpine
Isaiah Mathias Mantey Casteel (son)	Thanksgiving for his birth on May 19	R. Casteel & C. Mantey
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Zion (La Grande) and Peace (Pendleton)	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.

Donate Old Keys for Earth Camp Crafts

Do you have a bag of keys that you no longer use? These could be from cars you no longer have or from previous locks. Luggage keys will work, too. The campers this year will be making windchimes, and the keys will be used as clappers. Each camper needs four keys for their wind chime. We already have 140, so we only need another 60 keys. Check your junk drawers; this is an opportunity to repurpose those unused keys! There is a basket on the coffee bar in the narthex to drop them into.



In addition, the windchimes have a wooden slice of a tree branch that will be used to hang the keys and chime bars. We need someone with a drill press to drill holes in these for the twine to thread through. We need approximately fifty wood pieces drilled with three additional holes (they came with one hole drilled). If you can assist with this task, contact Susan Reiser.

Susan Reiser & Beth Johnson,
Earth Camp Arts & Crafts Leaders

Earth Camp for Everyone: Sunday, June 14



You are never too young, or too old, to come home to Earth. The Earth Care Team is offering an opportunity for everyone to spend an afternoon experiencing the fun and learning that occurs at St. Andrew's annual Earth Camp for elementary-aged children. "Families Coming Home to Earth" will be the theme of this event being held **Sunday, June 14**, from 11:00 am to 2:15 pm.

Earth Camp for Everyone will engage the St. Andrew community in multi-generational activities that will guide participants in ways to connect and appreciate our relationship with Earth. This will include interactive teaching stations such as storytime, crafts, composting & earth worms, and Earth discovery. Lunch will be provided for those who sign up in advance, and the day will end with closing music and celebration!

Whether you're young-at-heart or an old soul, join us for an afternoon of summer-camp-style fun! If you plan to attend, please use the sign-up sheet located on the Earth Care bulletin board, across from the coffee bar in the narthex. Hope to see you there!

LuAnn Staul

Join the 2026 Collins Lecture

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) presents the 2026 Collins Lecture with John Fugelsang, author of the book *Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds*. Fugelsang hopes through this lecture to give people the tools for responding to far-right stances on immigration, LGBTQIA2S+ rights, poverty, feminism, and more, in a way that aligns with Jesus' core teachings of love, mercy, and service.



This lecture will be held at 7:00 pm on **June 6**, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (NW 19th & Everett, Portland), and tickets are \$30. Virtual options for attendance are also available.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit emoregon.org/events.



Meal Train®

Sign up for Christina Mantey & Robert Casteel's MealTrain® at mealtrain.com/813d44.

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

For more information, or to notify when creating a new one, email mealtrain@standrewlutheran.com.

Preparing for Worship Sunday, June 7, 2026

Romans 4:13-25
Psalm 50:7-15
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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
Temporary Office Assistant Amber Sterlinski assistant@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Nurses Diane Reiner 503-201-4222
Tira Nessel 503-866-5099

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, May 29

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm World Fusion Concert Rehearsal..... Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 30—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

8:00 am HR Search Team Meeting..... Library (Main Level)
2:00 pm Pr. Randy Schutt Celebration of Life & Reception..... Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 31

9:30 am Worship Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom
9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel
10:30 am End-of-Year Brunch Potluck..... Fellowship Hall
10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering Chapel

Monday, June 1

7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, June 2

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 (Main Level)
12:00 pm Bridge Group..... Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm Sanctuary Team Meeting..... Library (Main Level)
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 Library (Main Level)

Wednesday, June 3—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & assistant@standrewlutheran.com

7:00 pm Al-Anon Family Group Meeting Chapel

Thursday, June 4

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm Staff Meeting Library (Main Level)
5:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting..... via Zoom
7:00 pm Wing Chun Class..... Children's Commons

Friday, June 5

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 6—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, June 7

9:30 am Worship Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom
9:30 am Portland Taiwan Worship Service Chapel
10:45 am Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering..... Chapel
11:00 am Budget Forum Fellowship Hall
2:30 pm Spirituality Book Group..... Library (Main Level)

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.