

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

July 10, 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

Tree Walk in St. Andrew Woods & Wetlands



Join Don Nearhood as he leads an exploration of the eight acres of riparian forest and wetland behind St. Andrew **this Saturday, July 11**, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The walk will follow Johnson Creek, then wander off the beaten path to explore the wetlands and woods.

There are some small logs to step over or duck under, and a small creek to scamper across. The journey will end by returning to enjoy the established wood-chipped trail to the Sanctuary of the Firs and view the beaver dams on the east side of the property. Come and see what a dedicated group of volunteers can do to restore nature and create a peaceful refuge for both humans and wildlife.

This walk is sponsored by Treekeepers of Washington County, so you must register by going to treekeeperswc.org/events and clicking the "Sign up" link for the event.

Men's Book Club News

The Men's Book Club will meet **this Monday, July 13**, at 2:00 pm to discuss *Here One Moment: A Novel* by Liane Moriarty. Gary Grafwallner will host the discussion at his home.

Here One Moment takes place on a flight off the coast of Australia. On which, suddenly, a woman traveling alone stands. She walks down the aisle making predictions about how and when passengers will die. Some dismiss her; they don't believe in psychics. Some are delighted with her prophecies since their lives will supposedly be long! Others are appalled. Then, a few months later, the first prediction comes true.



The Men's Book Club will not gather in August. Following summer break, meetings will resume on **September 14** with Larry Bliesner hosting discussion on *A River Runs through It: and Other Stories* by Norman Maclean. **October 12's** title is *Soul Mountain* by Gao Xingjian, hosted by Steve Claborne.

Food Pantry Donations Update from June



Thank to your generosity, St. Andrew was able to deliver a total of 103 pounds of food to the St. Matthew Food Pantry during the month of June. Your gifts to the Pantry help St. Andrew to live out its Core Values of Community Care and Neighbor Care.

Beauty Matters: A Form of Witness

In a world that too often feels rushed, noisy, and divided, beauty can seem like a luxury. When there are so many pressing needs, why devote time and energy to creating beauty?



The Church has long answered that question by saying: Because beauty matters. Not to distract us from the world's pain, but because it reminds us that pain is not the whole story. Beauty opens our hearts to hope, and gives us a glimpse of God's vision for creation—a world shaped by justice, compassion, joy, and peace.

Every Sunday, St. Andrew strives to create worship that welcomes people just as they are. Hospitality is more than a friendly "hello" at the door, a mug if you're new, or a snack and a chat after the service. It is also found in the way worship feels. Thoughtfully-prepared liturgy, meaningful silence, deep prayers, colorful banners, and a congregation singing together all communicate something profound before a single sermon is preached: You are welcome here, no exceptions. This is holy ground.

Beautiful music is another way we extend that welcome. Whether someone has been attending Church for decades or is walking through our doors for the very first time, music has a remarkable ability to speak beyond words. It can calm anxious hearts, awaken forgotten memories, and create space for people to encounter God in ways they never expected.

Beauty is also a form of witness.

In a culture that prizes efficiency and productivity, choosing to create something beautiful is a quiet act of faith. The Sanctuary Choir gathers week after week, not because perfection is required, but because offering our best to God and one another is an expression of love. We rehearse, listen, blend, and work on all the details together, not to impress the congregation (music as ministry, not performance), but to help reveal something of God's grace.

Throughout history sacred art has helped people glimpse the transcendent. Stained glass catches the light. Icons invite contemplation. Architecture lifts our eyes heavenward. Music belongs to that same tradition. A choral anthem is not simply decoration added to worship. It is one of the ways that the Church proclaims that God's presence is real, that love is stronger than fear, and that beauty still has the power to transform us.



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Beauty Matters

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One of the gifts of singing in a choir is discovering that beauty is not something created by extraordinary individuals alone. It is created by ordinary people who are willing to listen to and work with one another. No single voice makes a choir. Beauty emerges when each singer offers what they have, allowing their voice to become part of something larger than themselves. There is something deeply Lutheran about that. We trust that God works through ordinary people, ordinary bread and wine, ordinary water, and yes, ordinary voices joined together in song.

The late poet, philosopher, and scholar John O'Donohue wrote, "Beauty is not all about just nice loveliness. Beauty is about a more rounded, substantial becoming." Sacred beauty doesn't ignore life's hardships. Instead, it helps us become more fully alive, more deeply compassionate, and more open to God's presence in the world.

If you've ever been moved by a choir anthem, found yourself unexpectedly comforted by a hymn, or simply longed to be part of creating something meaningful, perhaps this is your invitation: Come sing with us!

The choir is not made up of perfect singers. It is made up of people who believe that beauty matters—and who offer their voices so that, together, the whole congregation might catch a glimpse of God's abundant love.

John Gladen
Minister of Music



Plastic-Free July—The Five Rs:

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose & Recycle

The Five Rs have been around for a while—originally started as three, now two new Rs have been added: Refuse and Repurpose. There is an order to the Five Rs; they go by order of importance, working their way down the list to the last resort. The idea is to help you reduce the amount of your waste.

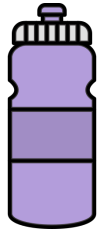


This takes a little planning. My household carries a cloth bag in the car with our own silverware and containers to use as to-go boxes when we dine out. Also in our car, we have reusable water bottles, commuter coffee mugs, and cloth bags for shopping and produce. When you're out shopping, refuse those tempting freebies that you'll never use. The more people buy them, the more the company will make them. Also, don't forget to take your own reusable bags to the farmer's market.

Reduce: Simply use less. Do you really need that fancy new phone with plastic parts? Or can you factory-reset your old phone and update it to get the performance back? Can you upgrade your laptop (also made of plastic parts) with a new hard drive or new RAM to give it a new lease on life rather than throwing it away? Not buying more also saves you money!



Reuse: Reusable water bottles and coffee cups allow you to have long-lasting water bottles and cups that are functional, environmentally friendly, and look cool! Sometimes you get a small discount for bringing your own. The same is true for reusable shopping bags: they are functional, environmentally friendly, look nice, and can get you a discount. If you forget your bag, ask for a paper bag.



Although my family has not purchased baggies or used plastic produce bags and grocery bags for years, they still end up in our life when other people give us things. We wash out the bags and reuse them until they fall apart. We wash the bags with soap and water, then hang them on a hanger with a clothes pin to dry. It might sound crazy, but it works! Another thing my husband loves to save and reuse are Bob's Red Mill bags. Again, we rinse and reuse. He likes them because they are sturdy and have a really good closure. It's easy to store leftovers in them.

Repurpose: This R requires some thinking and craftiness, but the internet is full of repurposing ideas. It is rewarding when you create something new from something old. A simple repurpose idea is to use jam jars in the kitchen for food storage, in the garage for small things like nails and screws, or in the sewing room for buttons. Before discarding, ask yourself if there is anything else you can use that item for. Use glass jars instead of plastic containers for food storage.

Recycling: If the first four options don't work, then recycle. Recycling is not the solution to our plastics problem, like the plastics and petroleum industries would have us believe. Those industries want to keep extracting oil with which to make plastic. Recycling is the most well-known of the Five Rs, and the easiest, but it is the least efficient. Recycling is a great way to see all the things you throw away and helps you rethink future purchases.

When recycling plastic, it's important to recycle the proper items only. Wish-cycling, the practice of putting items in the recycle bin because it seems like it ought to be recyclable, only contaminates the truly recyclable things in the bin. Check with your hauler to be sure of what goes in and what doesn't.



These things DO go in the recycle bin: plastic containers such as milk or laundry soap jugs, cardboard milk containers, metal food cans including spray oils like PAM, plastic round containers that measure 2" x 2" or more, paper, and flattened cardboard.

These things DO NOT go in the mixed-recycling bin: plastic bags, flat plastic or metal lids (which get into the paper bundles and contaminate them), plastic wrap, glass (which goes in a separate bin), Styrofoam, clamshells, disposable coffee cups, and plastic packaging.



It is important to rinse out containers and jugs. And no wet things like paper or cardboard. These items are contaminants and get caught up in the machinery, causing workers to have to shut down the operation to clean up and untangle the mess.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Farewell Party for Kyler Vogt on July 19

After eight years of service at St. Andrew, Director of Next Generational Ministry Kyler Vogt is concluding his time with us. Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship on **Sunday, July 19**, as we celebrate his ministry and wish him the best on the next chapter of his life's journey. A basket will be available to leave cards.



In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Dori (cousin), and other family & friends of Craig	Peace and God's comfort at his death	Carol Hogan
Brian & Lori Tubbs (brother & sister-in-law)	Continued healing and recovery after being struck by a vehicle	Francine Cach
Joyce Bianucci (sister)	Healing and comfort	Judy Scholz
Kristie Gladhill	Healing and recovery from hip replacement	Kristie Gladhill
Warren Blanchard (husband)	Healing and strength	Tammy Blanchard
Lily (neighbor)	Healing from surgery	Warren & Donna McAlpine
Stacye Erickson (cousin)	Peace and healing of broken arm	Dana Taylor-Blakemore
Lee Anne Knapp	Rest, support, and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Yolanda & Paco (friend's family)	Safety during heatwave and resilience of crops	Rebecca Uecker
Becky LeRoy (wife)	Successful infusion treatments	Rick LeRoy
Mike Tomaka (friend)	Support and peace	Lee Anne Knapp
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	Encourage and support	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Calvary (Grants Pass) and Good Shepherd (Cave Junction)	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.

Why Is It So Difficult to Find a Primary Care Provider?

Have you or a loved one tried to find a primary care provider, only to have to wait for months? Do you find it increasingly difficult to book an appointment with your primary care provider? Have prior authorization headaches impacted your ability to address health issues?



St. Andrew is a member of the Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good. MACG's Healthcare Access research team has spent the last year researching these questions. The team has learned a lot about how complex the problem is. It has also identified a possible avenue to address one of the barriers providers and patients experience as they try to access the best healthcare possible.

MACG is ready to share what has been learned, and propose a possible way forward.

Please join MACG for this Civic Academy where you will learn what has been shared with the team about this complex issue. You will learn about some of the challenges of addressing this issue (spoiler alert: it is *very* complicated) and explore what ways are possible to move forward. This Civic Academy will be held on **Sunday, July 19**, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, at Havurah Shalom (825 NW 18th Ave) in Northwest Portland. For more information about this opportunity, and to RSVP, please visit macg.org/pcp_shortage_ca.

Pat Christiansen and Amy Peahl are members of the Healthcare Access team. You're welcome to speak with them regarding any questions you have. Please plan now to join us as we take this next step to make access to primary healthcare available to all.

Young-Adult Wildwood Hike

You are invited to join a hike along the Wildwood trail in Forest Park with other young adults from Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, Christ United Methodist Church Cedar Mill, and Spirit of Grace! Hikers will meet at Cedar Hills UCC (11695 SW Park Way) on **Sunday, July 26** at 5:30 pm, then carpool to the trailhead from there. Food will be offered following the hike. If you're interested in joining, please RSVP with Pr. Sam Holland at 336-485-5618, indicating whether you'd like to drive one of the carpools or just ride along.



Meal Train®

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, July 19, 2026

Romans 8:12-25
Psalm 86:11-17
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pr. Allison Bengfort	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Assoc. Pr. Colleen Nelson.....	<i>out of town through July 19</i>
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
Church Admin. Kacey Woodbridge	administrator@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, July 10

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

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

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 12

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 Welcome Party for Church Administrator Fellowship Hall

Monday, July 13

2:00 pm Men's Book Club Home of Gary Grafwallner

Tuesday, July 14

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

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, July 15—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com

7:00 pm Al-Anon Family Group Meeting Chapel

Thursday, July 16

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

1:00 pm Staff Meeting Library (Main Level)

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

Friday, July 17

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 18—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 19

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 Farewell Party for Kyler Vogt Fellowship Hall

A Hidden Treasure Found in Reformation Earth Garden



While out weeding last Tuesday morning, members of the Earth Care Team found a spotted towhee nest in the Reformation Earth Garden. Five years ago, the Team planned and planted the Reformation Earth Garden, a meadow near the western red cedar behind the church. Planted with native flowers and shrubs, the area creates a native habitat which provides essential food, water, shelter, and nesting space for local wildlife.

This area may look a bit messy to some, but the bigleaf lupine, goldenrod, Douglas' aster, and milkweed provide beautiful flowers. During Earth Camp the area was used to teach the children about native plants. Just like other gardens, the Reformation Earth Garden is also a site for weeds, which the Earth Care Team works to remove.

Take some time this summer to check out the Reformation Earth Garden, and consider joining the Earth Care Team as we create a habitat for birds and pollinators.

Earth Care Team

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.