

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

July 2, 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

A Brief Theology of the American Flag



Why is the American flag red, white, and blue? The answer turns out to be theological—but not in the way you might expect. Read more about the American flag on the St. Andrew website at:

standrewlutheran.com/a-brief-theology-of-the-american-flag.

Support Beaverton Homelessness Services

Want to lend a helping hand to your unhoused neighbors? Beaverton City Library invites you to attend a Community Impact Expo on **Thursday, July 9**, where you will explore the variety of ways you can support social service organizations serving the unhoused community in Washington County.

At this expo event, you will be able to connect with organizations that have current volunteer opportunities, learn about their donation needs, build awareness of the services and resources available in the county, and discover meaningful ways that you can make a difference!



This expo will be held in meeting rooms A and B at the main branch of Beaverton City Library (12375 SW 5th Street) **next Thursday, July 9**, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. To learn more, visit beavertonlibrary.org/603/Community-Impact-Expo.

Help Needed for Buy Nothing Free Swap

Some of you may remember the Buy Nothing Free Swap event that was held at St. Andrew back in April. That event was so successful that the local Buy Nothing group is hoping to host another swap on **Saturday, August 8**.



This is an event where people from the community can get rid of things they no longer need or want, and go home with things for free that other people have brought. It's a great way to keep things out of the landfill while at the same time going home with free stuff.

St. Andrew has offered the use of its facility again. We need a volunteer host to unlock the building, lock up at the end, and be present during the event. I will be out of town so I can't do it. The group will set up in Fellowship Hall on **Friday, August 7**, from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm, and will run the event from 8:00 am – 1:00 pm on **Saturday, August 8**.

If you can help, please contact me by calling 360-632-4900 or emailing elisabethhardy6@gmail.com. Thanks a bunch!

Liz Hardy

Office Closed Friday for Independence Day

The Church Office will be closed **this Friday, July 3**, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. We will respond to emails and calls when the office reopens on **Tuesday, July 7**. Have a great weekend!



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



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.



Plastic-Free July is Here: Small Steps, Big Differences!

Article is adapted from plasticfreejuly.org.

Every July, millions of people around the world take their own plastic-free steps by choosing to refuse single-use plastic. Recently, participants have avoided 2.6 million tons of waste! It doesn't matter what choice you make: switching to reusable cups, avoiding plastic packaging, or inviting family and friends to take part. Together our small steps make a big difference. If it seems overwhelming, start with just one step. What's your step?

Here are a couple of ideas to try out as you begin this July:



Start by discontinuing your reliance on single-use plastic water bottles. Carry a reusable bottle in your car. Get in the habit of keeping your water bottle with you at work, the gym, school, events, and when you travel. At the airport, you can take your empty bottle through security, then fill it at one of the many water fountains (usually near restrooms) before you board.

Despite many people making the switch, plastic beverage bottles and caps were among the top five items collected globally through beach clean-ups and other initiatives as recorded in Ocean Conservancy's 2022 annual report.

Or, start by swearing off single-use "paper" cups, which are partially made of plastic. Such cups would leak if they were truly made of paper. Billions of disposable coffee cups end up as landfill and litter every year. Beware of disposable cups, or other dishes and tableware, that are advertised as "compostable." They are only compostable if they go to a special composting facility, which is unlikely to happen because the facilities are few and far between. And we don't have any in Oregon!

You can always just grab a cup from home and keep it with you. But the most popular travel cups are made of glass, ceramic, or insulated stainless steel, with sealable silicone lids. I have two ceramic cups that live in my car. Sadly, a lot of drive-through coffee shops do not allow use of personal cups, but most store-front ones will serve your coffee or tea in your own cup. Better yet, take a break from the rat-race pace of life and take the time to sit down at a café to enjoy your hot beverage from a real mug!

Carry reusable containers in your car so you can take home leftovers from restaurants without using disposable containers. Many of the take-out boxes from restaurants may look like paper or cardboard, but again, they would leak if they didn't have plastic embedded in them.

Carry reusable tableware so you can avoid plastic utensils when you are eating away from home.

At the grocery store, look for produce that is not wrapped in plastic. Take your own reusable produce bags and shopping bags.

We can do this!



Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Something Feels a Little Phishy...



The wheel turns and another round of scam emails have caught the eye of office staff. This time we have a few scammers trying to impersonate Minister of Music John Gladen and Lead Pastor Allison Bengfort. Please be sure that if you feel an email looks suspicious, it probably is.

If an email comes through and it is not from an address ending with @standrewlutheran.com (or from our email marketing platform @fellowshiponego.com), it is not from a member of the office staff. It is best to mark the email as spam, block the sender, and/or just ignore it completely! Stay safe out there!

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 on **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 on **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.

Young Adult Wildwood Hike

You are invited to join with other young adults from Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, Christ United Methodist Church Cedar Mill, and Spirit of Grace for a hike along the Wildwood trail in Forest Park! Hikers will meet at Cedar Hills UCC (11695 SW Park Way) on **Sunday, July 26** at 5:30 pm, and carpool from there to the trail-head. 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.



In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Brian & Lori Tubbs (brother & sister-in-law)	Continued healing and recovery after being struck by a vehicle	Francine Cach
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
Dori & Craig (cousins)	Peace and strength	Carol Hogan
Lee Anne Knapp	Rest, support, and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Scott Taylor	Safe return home and healing from motorcycle accident	Donna McAlpine
Yolanda & Paco (friend's family)	Safety during heatwave and resilience of crops	Rebecca Uecker
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar	Strength and wisdom	Staff
Oregon Synod Council and Staff	Courage and wisdom	Staff
Refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants	Acceptance, safety, and just treatment	Staff
Military personnel, especially Justina Hailey Hope Bocker, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Shepherd of the Mountains (Sunriver), Shepherd of the Hills (Sisters), and Zion (Redmond)	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.

Thank You Note from the Beaverton Resource Center

Note to St. Andrew congregation: One and a half percent of the St. Andrew Ministry and Mission funds are designated as Local Benevolence, and are distributed by the Service Committee to support local non-profits that address hunger, homelessness, domestic violence, and children and families in poverty. St. Andrew donates \$500 to each of several local organizations annually.

Dear St. Andrew Lutheran Church Community,

On behalf of all our board of directors, staff, and community members we serve at the Beaverton Resource Center, please accept our gratitude for your incredibly thoughtful and generous gift.

Your support is more than a donation. It is a powerful expression of care for our neighbors and a shared belief that every person in our community deserves access to food, housing stability, health, and hope. We are truly honored that you chose to highlight and invest in our work.



Each day, we have the privilege of walking alongside individuals and families navigating extremely challenging circumstances. Because of your generosity, we can meet people in those moments with compassion and tangible support, whether that is a box of food, assistance with housing, access to healthcare, or simply a welcoming place where someone feels seen and valued.

What makes your gift especially meaningful is that it comes from the collective kindness of your community and becomes a circle of care, lifting up those who need it most.

Thank you for standing with us and for being such an important part of this work. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and your support of our community.

With sincere appreciation,
Lisa Montesana
Executive Director

Prayer for a National Holiday

Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

-ELW page 63



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 12, 2026

Romans 8:1-11
Psalm 119:105-112
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pr. Allison Bengfort	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Assoc. Pr. Colleen Nelson.....	out of town through July 19
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 Administrator Kacey Woodbridge.....	503-646-0629 x208
Administrative Assistant Martin Mills	office@standrewlutheran.com
Parish Nurses Diane Reiner	503-201-4222
Tira Nesset	503-866-5099

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Thursday, July 2

10:00 am	Strength + Stability with Susanne	Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm	Executive Committee Meeting.....	via Zoom
7:00 pm	Wing Chun Class.....	Children's Commons

Friday, July 3—Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 4—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:30 am	Cedar Hills Fourth of July Parade	Cedar Hills Recreation Center (11640 SW Park Way)
---------	---	---

Sunday, July 5

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

Monday, July 6

7:00 pm	Finance Team Meeting	via Zoom
---------	----------------------------	----------

Tuesday, July 7

7:00 am	Men's Gathering and Bible Study	Elmer's Restaurant on 158 th (1250 NW Waterhouse Ave)
7:00 am	Sunrise Women.....	Elmer's Restaurant on 158 th (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)
1:30 pm	Service Committee.....	St. Andrew Room
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	via Zoom

Wednesday, July 8—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com

7:00 pm	Al-Anon Family Group Meeting	Chapel
---------	------------------------------------	--------

Thursday, July 9

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	Library (Main Level)
7:00 pm	Wing Chun Class.....	Children's Commons

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

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.