

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

July 31, 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

St. Andrew Walks with You

With the warm weather our area has been experiencing, many people are fortunate to have air conditioning, access to a daily shower, and clean clothes. Unfortunately, this is not the case for those who live on the streets of our city. Since 1968, Outside In has supported those in need by breaking the cycles of homelessness, poverty, and health issues. This successful program provides safe spaces for people to receive support and care free of judgment.

For many years, St. Andrew has supported this wonderful organization by collecting necessities for those seeking its help.



You have an opportunity to show God's love and live out St. Andrew's values of Community Care and Neighbor Care by purchasing **new adult socks** to be donated to Outside In. Your donations of **new adult socks** may be placed in either the blue or yellow barrels in the narthex.

The collection drive begins **this Sunday**, and will continue through **August 30**. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

Service Committee

Your Congregational Council for 2026–2027

President Allison Katsufakis
Vice President Noelle Mehlhorn
Secretary Amy Harker
Co-Treasurer Joel Johnson
Co-Treasurer Jon Thorpe



Our prayers and thanks go out to the new executive officers of the St. Andrew Congregational Council. At the Council's June meeting, co-treasurers were appointed, which includes Joel Johnson remaining in his post, now joined by Jon Thorpe. At a retreat last Saturday, Council elected, by ecclesiastical ballot, the remaining officers from among its fifteen members.

St. Andrew Congregational Council Member Roster for 2026–2027:

Scott Anderson	Evan McGarvey	Lisa Staul
Amy Harker	Noelle Mehlhorn	Jon Thorpe
Joel Johnson	Tira Nessel	Casey Tkacz
Allison Katsufakis	Tracie Semenchalam	Janet Vorvick
Carl Malmstrom	Cindy Stadel	Karen Zocchi

According to St. Andrew's Constitution, the Council:

- Shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and
- Shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

LWR School Kits Supply Collection Update

Back-to-school at St. Andrew means one thing: school kits. Each year, the church collects donations and assembles school kits that equip children with the supplies they need to keep learning even during a crisis. Once assembled, these kits are boxed up and shipped by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to those all around the world coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more.

St. Andrew's goal this year is to fill 300 school kits. Each kit uses a drawstring backpack-style cloth bag to carry the supplies listed below. More than 200 bags are nearly or have already been completed. A sign-up sheet is available on the coffee bar if you would like to help pin and sew the remaining bags needed. Signing up gives us an idea of the days and times people are available to help with this project. In the grid that follows you will find what supplies are still needed to fill the bags. These numbers are being updated every week until the goal is met.



SCHOOL KIT SUPPLY LIST	Have	Need
Notebooks, 70-sheet of wide- or college-ruled paper; no loose-leaf paper	614	586
Crayons, box of 16 or 24	29	271
Pencil sharpener	143	157
Ruler, 30 centimeters long, or a ruler with inches on one side <u>and</u> centimeters on the other	93	207
Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)	167	133
#2 pencils with erasers (preferably not sharpened)	839	661
Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)	840	660
Eraser, 2 ½ inches	145	155

An important note regarding supply donations:

It is imperative that donations follow the above guidelines. LWR will **not** accept supplies that do not fit the above requirements. Some of the donations received thus far are not able to be used to fill school kits. If you'd like to return items that are unable to be used, or donate them to a collection that does accept them, they have been left inside a paper Fred Meyer bag next to the LWR collection bin. For more information about specifications, visit lwr.org/kits/school-kits/instructions.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Soil Your Undies... to Find Out How Healthy Your Soil Is

Adapted from article originally posted to Earth911.com, June 2026

"Soil Your Undies" sounds like the latest, grossest, internet challenge to make the rounds on social media. But it's actually a chance to get your hands dirty with a bit of citizen science! The Soil Your Undies challenge is simple: bury a new pair of cotton briefs (colloquially known as tighty-whities) and dig them up eight weeks later as an easy test of soil health based on the fact that cotton is biodegradable. In healthy soil, the only part of the undies that will remain intact after eight weeks in the soil will be the elastic waistband. In poor soil, however, the underwear will still be wearable (if washed!) after two months underground.

Cotton is almost pure cellulose, a carbon-rich food source that soil microbes devour wherever the underground ecosystem is thriving. One teaspoon of healthy soil can contain more microbes than there are people on the planet! It will have billions of bacteria, fungi, and other organisms that cycle nutrients, store water, and help soil resist erosion. The more chewed-up your undies come out, the more active that hidden workforce is, and the healthier your soil is.

Soil erosion and the loss of healthy topsoil are among the top environmental issues affecting farmers around the world. U.S. croplands lose an average of 4.6 tons of soil per acre, per year under current farming practices. A study by the University of Massachusetts Amherst estimates that the Midwest alone has shed roughly 57.6 billion metric tons of topsoil in the past 160 years since settlers began current farming practices in the region.



The "Soil Your Undies" challenge took root in Oregon as a project between farmers and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts as a way to get the public interested in soil health. The NRCS Oregon Soil Health Committee gave this campaign a visual brand when it launched in December 2018. Since its inception, more than 100 farmers, ranchers, and agricultural enthusiasts in Oregon have taken the challenge.

Farmers who practiced no-till farming and took the challenge discovered that their soil was rich in nutrients.

"Soil Your Undies" is easier, and a lot more fun, than taking scientific soil samples and reading chemical test results. It's also a simple way to illustrate the principle of biodegradation for kids. Some farmers who participated in the challenge have changed their land management methods to become more sustainable. If commercial farmers can be convinced to change their ways with this simple experiment, it could be just as useful for homeowners who think they need to get rid of bugs with pesticides.

Plant your pants. Bury your tighty-whities under about three inches of your garden's topsoil. Use a labeled plant marker to mark the spot. Wait two months, then dig them back up. For the cleanest comparison, try burying pairs in a few different spots; a composted bed versus a high-traffic, compacted patch, or an irrigated area versus a dry one. Soil scientists note that microbial activity is most visible when there is good soil moisture, so the difference between a mulched, well-watered bed, and bare, dry ground can be dramatic.



Make sure the underwear is 100% cotton. Polyester—which is really just plastic cloth—will not degrade in two months regardless of soil health. Try burying a cotton pair alongside a polyester or cotton-blend pair to see the difference when you dig them up.

Have fun with this experiment!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Coming Soon at St. Anthony Catholic, Tigard: MACG Foundations of Organizing Training

Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG) is an alliance of organizations that work together on issues of importance to their members. St. Andrew has been a member on the alliance since 2018. Did you know that the crosswalk just past Johnson Creek on Butner Road was St. Andrew's very first organizing project? Currently, a MACG team is launching a campaign to eliminate the need for prior authorizations for primary care. This would affect about one million people in Oregon who have commercial insurance.



In order to do our work, we practice tried-and-true techniques for building people power and strengthening institutions. We learn these techniques at training events. The next event will be held in late August, over two sessions:

Saturday, August 22, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, August 29, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Learn more and register by visiting macg.org/august2026.

Amy Peahl and Pat Christiansen are members of the Training Team and will be two of the leaders for this event. Please check in with either of them if you have any questions.

Water, Water, Everywhere...

During the final three weeks of September, St. Andrew will participate in the Season of Creation, an ecumenical worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. The theme for this year is "Living Water."

Each Sunday of this season, our worship will focus on gratitude to God, Creator of all things, especially water, lamenting our failures to steward this precious gift, and exploring ways in which we can protect our environment and work toward a more just and life-giving world for the entire human family as well as the non-human creation.



As part of this celebration, there will be a Blessing of the Waters. You are invited to bring a small sample of water from any source that is meaningful to you. It can be from a vacation trip, from your favorite fishing hole or swimming pool, from rainfall, even from the water you drink or give to your thirsty plants. Small watertight bottles are available in the narthex. Collect your sample (safely, please!), label it with your name and the source location, then bring it with you to place along the windows in the sanctuary. Feel free to check out where all the different samples have come from. During a worship service in September, all of the waters collected will be poured into the baptismal font (along with a sanitizing solution) as a symbol of our unity with each other and all creation.

We hope this is a meaningful part of your summer activities.

Worship Planning Team

In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
K. D. (friend)	Accurate diagnosis and successful treatment of chronic pain	Rebecca Uecker
Mary Ann Snider	Comfort and renewal of strength	Beth Johnson
Lee Anne Knapp	Rest, support, and recovery	Lee Anne Knapp
Joyce Bianucci (sister)	Successful cancer treatment and relief from side effects	Judy Scholz
Liz Roscoe (daughter)	Successful surgery on August 4	Susan Reiser
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 Brocker, Carly Keyser, Clay Keyser, Kodi Miller	Safety and guidance	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Gloria Dei (Coos Bay) and Faith (Coquille)	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.

Next Buy Nothing Free Swap Event Is August 8

Some of you may remember the Buy Nothing Neighborhood Swap event that was held at St. Andrew back in April. The event was such a success that the same group is going to host another free swap again on Saturday, August 8, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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

Yes, everything is FREE! Come "shop" among any and all of the donated items without spending a single penny! Invite your neighbors and friends as well!



If you want to donate items, please bring them to Fellowship Hall on Friday, August 7, between 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm, or on Saturday, August 8, between 8:00 am and 9:30 am. If you are unable to drop off your donations during those hours, we have been given permission to store items in the Youth Room downstairs prior to the event. Buy Nothing volunteers will then move any early donations to Fellowship Hall during the set up on August 7.

Item donations: Please note that all donated items need to be in very good or like-new condition. Acceptable donations include household items, clothing, shoes, kitchen wares, outerwear, unexpired food, back-to-school supplies, toys, books, and more.

Please do not bring anything that is damaged, broken, torn, or stained. Also, no items that are larger than a kitchen chair; you may bring a photo of said large items, with your contact information attached, so interested parties can directly arrange pick-up with you.

In short, this is an event where people can "gift" things they no longer need or want, and go home with things they do want. The best of any left-over items will be delivered to local non-profit groups that serve the wider community. Note that you do not have to donate in order to "shop" for free stuff.

If you are interested in helping the Buy Nothing group set up or take down, let me know and I will get you in touch with the group's leader.

Liz Hardy

Brass Sunday: August 16

Join us for worship on Sunday, August 16, as St. Andrew will be blessed with bright and beautiful sounds from its brass quintet offering music in a lively mix of dixieland and ragtime styles.

The quintet's joyful, spirited music will add a unique, uplifting, and energizing dimension to our morning. See you there!



Lead Pastor Holiday Notice



Pr. Allison Bengfort will be out on vacation beginning this Monday, August 3, - Monday, August 17. During this time, Associate Bridge Pastor Colleen Nelson will be available for pastoral concerns and emergencies. Pr. Allison will return on Tuesday, August 18.



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, August 9, 2026

Romans 10:5-15
Psalm 85:8-13
Matthew 14:22-33

St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Allison Katsufakis..... 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
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 31

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 1—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 2

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, August 3

7:00 pm Finance Team Meeting St. Andrew Room, via Zoom

Tuesday, August 4

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

12:00 pm Bridge Group Fellowship Hall

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, August 5—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to office@standrewlutheran.com & administrator@standrewlutheran.com

7:00 pm Al-Anon Family Group Meeting Chapel

Thursday, August 6

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

Friday, August 7

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

3:30 pm Buy Nothing Project Neighborhood Swap Early Drop-Off/Set-Up Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 8—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Buy Nothing Project Neighborhood Swap Event Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 9

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

6:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal 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.