

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

August 28, 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 Call to Stand With Newman UMC



Sometimes being a welcoming church means opening our own doors. Sometimes it means standing beside another congregation as they work to keep theirs open to everyone.

We have an opportunity to do the latter. Newman United Methodist Church in Grants Pass is one of the few queer-affirming churches in its community. The congregation openly communicates that welcome, including displaying a Pride flag outside the church. That visible commitment to LGBTQ+ people has also brought significant negative attention.

The church faces protesters on a weekly basis because of its decision to be open and affirming.

Pastor Logan McLean Strike recently shared that the weight of that opposition is taking a toll. Morale among members of the congregation's council has been low, and they have found themselves wrestling with a painful question:

"Is it worth it to be open and affirming to queer people?"

Those of us at St. Andrew know something about making a public commitment to welcome. Being a Reconciling in Christ congregation is more than a statement on a website or a designation attached to our name. It is a commitment to proclaim, visibly and deliberately, that LGBTQ+ people belong fully in the life of the church. And when another congregation making that same kind of commitment begins to wonder whether standing firm is worth the cost, we have an opportunity to remind them that they are not standing alone.

So, St. Andrew, let's send some mail!

Pastor Logan has asked people of faith to send letters of support and encouragement to Newman UMC. They don't need to be long or eloquent. Write a card. Send a note. Have your family sign a letter together. Tell their council that their ministry matters. Tell them there are people beyond Grants Pass who see what they are doing and are grateful for it. Tell them that creating a church where queer people know they are welcomed, valued, and loved is absolutely worth doing.

Most importantly, remind them that the voices protesting outside their church are not the only voices out there.

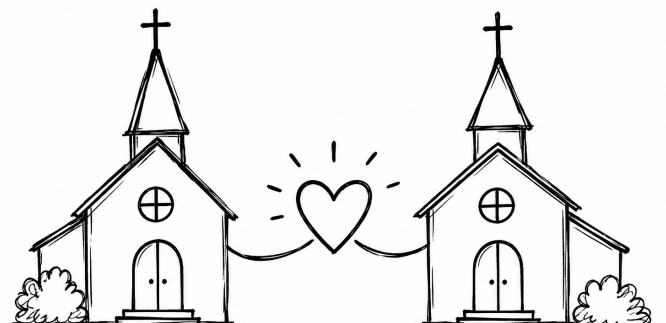
Let's make ours louder—not through argument or confrontation, but through an overflowing mailbox of encouragement, solidarity, and love.

Please send letters by September 10 to:

Newman UMC Church
106 NW 'F' St #951
Grants Pass, OR 97526

A congregation several hours away may never know all of our names, and we may never sit together in worship. But we can still be neighbors to one another.

Let's remind Newman UMC that they are part of a much larger community of people of faith who believe that God's welcome is expansive, that affirming LGBTQ+ people matters, and that they do not have to carry this work alone.



Are You Two Weeks Ready?



Could your household manage on its own for two weeks following a disaster or major disruption? Oregon's Be 2 Weeks Ready program offers practical guidance to help you prepare before an emergency happens.

Join a free community preparedness workshop on :

Saturday, September 12, from 9:00–11:00 am at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Beaverton.

Participants will learn how to build a go-bag, create an emergency plan, assemble a two-week food supply, and take other practical steps toward being prepared. No reservations are required.

Reason for Hope: Beavers

The Greenford Tube train station in West London used to flood when it rained heavily. Then, in 2023, Eurasian beavers were reintroduced to the area, the first beavers in West London for over 400 years. They swiftly dammed a local creek, creating a pond and wetland that now holds excess rainwater like a sponge, as well as providing habitat for newly arrived species of birds, bats, and butterflies! In just three years, flooding was reduced so much that the city has now scrapped plans for an expensive reservoir and levee.

This is a great example of rewilding as a human-benefiting adaptation solution! North American beavers are native to every US state except Hawaii, and after centuries of over-hunting, there are now rewilding projects across America leveraging their natural dam-building skills to help restore ecosystems and prevent fire and flood disasters.



Our local beavers have been busy as well. Many of you have accompanied Don Nearhood into the St. Andrew Woods to see how much of the wetland has been restored by several beaver dams. Remember that a hundred years ago, our St. Andrew Woods was farmland! Now it is a thriving wetland teeming with many species of birds and frogs and even fish have been sighted! Because our beaver dams are shaded

by the woods, the dams help to cool the water in the ponds and streams created by the beavers, which is beneficial in our warming world to both plants and animals that rely on the water. In Idaho, NASA satellite imagery has found substantially more vegetation in stretches of river where beavers have been reintroduced, and across the West, beaver-restored wetlands are proving highly resistant to increasingly threatening wildfires. National Geographic described beavers as "America's best firefighter."

California has developed a BeaverCorps program to help

smooth beavers' recolonization of the Golden State by resolving human/beaver conflicts, using techniques like regulating the water level of new beaver ponds or preserving desired trees with wire trunk protections. Here at St. Andrew, when we planted six White Oaks last spring, we did the same thing to prevent the beavers in the St. Andrew Woods from cutting down the newly



planted trees by placing wire cages around the trees. A first-in-the-nation Illinois law recently made rewilding lost native species like beavers and bison an official state land management strategy.

In Czechia (previously known as the Czech Republic), beavers created a biodiversity-boosting wetland and saved local taxpayers over \$1.2 million by building several beaver dams on a gully in the Brdy region while local officials were still seeking permits to build a small water retention dam in the exact same place. Beaver dams also sequester lots and lots of carbon!

As extreme flooding, wildfires, and water scarcity become more common, beaver rewilding is a low-cost way to help landscapes safely absorb and retain more water, providing habitat for animals and security for humans. We should encourage our state leaders to emulate the Illinois model and actively promote beaver rewilding as a land and water management strategy.

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Bell & Vocal CHOIRS RETURN!

SEPTEMBER 16



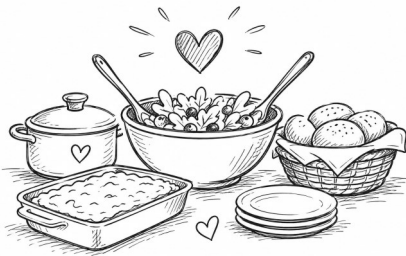
Whether you're an experienced musician or simply love making music, you're welcome to join!

**NO AUDITIONS.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.**



Come make a joyful noise!

Let's Kick Off A New Program Year Together!



A new program year is beginning at St. Andrew, and what better way to kick things off than with good food, good company, and a chance to discover what's ahead?

Join us Sunday, September 13, following worship for our Program Year Kickoff Party in the Fellowship Hall!

We'll gather for a congregational potluck and celebrate the start of another year of learning, growing, and connecting at St. Andrew. Come enjoy lunch together, catch up with familiar faces, meet someone new, and learn more about the educational opportunities available in the coming year. Whether you already know exactly where you want to plug in, or you're simply curious about what St. Andrew has to offer, this is a great opportunity to explore, ask questions, and find something that interests you.

And, of course, **it wouldn't be a potluck without the potluck!**

Stop by the **Coffee Bar** to find the signup sheet, and let us know what you're planning to bring. Main dishes, sides, salads, desserts, and other favorites are all welcome. Bring something you love to share and come hungry! And please come whether or not you bring a dish! There will be plenty to share. Your presence at the table is far more important than what you bring to it. There's a lot to look forward to in the year ahead. Come help us kick it off together.

Concerns About Suicide



At an adult education class last year, the subject of suicide came up. Several people in the room had been impacted by suicide. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U. S. How can we accompany those who have lost loved ones to suicide? And how can we equip ourselves to accompany people who have suicidal thoughts? Openness and compassion are required; we must be willing to talk about difficult things.

Several in our community have personal experience with this particular journey of pain and grief and are attempting to equip the congregation to minister to individuals and families impacted by suicide. We are planning to offer a day-long training in suicide prevention in the spring. In the meantime, if you are impacted by suicide, please don't hesitate to seek out one of the pastors for support. There are many at St. Andrew who would like to help others in this situation.

LWR School Kits Supply Collection Update

St. Andrew continues to collect donations for school kits that, once assembled, are boxed up and shipped by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to those all around the world coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more.

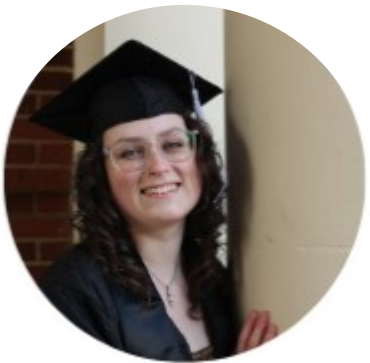
A sign-up sheet is available on the coffee bar if you would like to help pin and sew the remaining bags needed. Signing up gives us an idea of the days and times people are available to help with this project. Below you will find what supplies are still needed to accomplish St. Andrew's goal of filling 300 bags. These numbers are 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	1,184	16
Crayons, box of 16 or 24	420	<u>0</u>
Pencil sharpener	230	70
Ruler, 30 centimeters long, or a ruler with inches on one side <u>and</u> centimeters on the other	228	72
Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)	448	<u>0</u>
#2 pencils with erasers (preferably unsharpened)	1937	0
Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)	1646	0
Eraser, 2 ½ inches	300	0

Meet, Rachel!

Our New Nursery Attendant.

We're happy to introduce Rachel Johnson, St. Andrew's new Nursery Attendant!



Rachel brings a strong background in early childhood care and youth services. Most recently, she worked as an Infant Teacher with Neighborhood House Head Start, providing nurturing, developmentally appropriate care for infants from six weeks to 18 months. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in Human Development & Family Sciences from Oregon State University. Rachel also brings extensive training in caring for children, including CPR/AED and First Aid, Safe Sleep for Oregon's Infants, child care health and safety, and child abuse prevention and mandatory reporting. We're excited to have Rachel joining the St. Andrew community

Beginners Welcome!

You Don't Have to Be an Expert

You might have thought about becoming a member of the choir (perhaps some of my previous articles have put that idea in your head), but your internal monologue says "I'm not really a singer." You used to sing in the choir years ago in school. Or you can carry a tune, but you have yet to really figure out what all those dots and lines on the paper mean. You love music but believe that the church choir is made up of people who know all that already. Well, have I got some good news for you:

You don't have to be an expert!

Choir is not somewhere you need to appear already knowing every note and every rhythm, or even being able to read music in the first place. Choir is somewhere you come to learn. Musical skill is built by participating in choir. The more we sing, the more comfortable we become with our voice. We start reading music with confidence. We train our ears. We learn how to breathe, how to blend, how to listen, how to find your part. We realize that something intimidating becomes quite manageable.

Rehearsal is where all of that happens. Rehearsal is not a test you should take before you become a choir member. Rehearsal is where all of the learning takes place. We make mistakes. We stop and try it again, figuring out the rhythm, figuring out where to breathe. We listen to each other. Sometimes we laugh together when everything turns out less than ideal, but then we break it down and try it again.

It's not failure; it's an integral part of the rehearsal process.

Now, speaking about qualities that make a great choir member, there is something even more important than perfection: reliability. You don't have to sing every note perfectly. You don't hear how your voice contributes to the song, someone else hears it. And it goes beyond the music, too.

You don't have to have a professional voice. When you show up to choir the way you are, earnestly learn your music, tune in to the rest of the choir, and contribute something only you can contribute, you make the choir stronger.

And there is something even more important than that: sharing your voice. Not just any voice, yours. Our choir is a tapestry of sound. Everyone contributes something to this tapestry that the congregation and the world need to hear. Some voices are brilliant, soaring, some are warm and full, some are strong and confident. Some are quiet. Some are shy, still finding their ways. All of them are necessary and weave beauty and richness into our sound.

When we sing in parts, no single line is the song itself. The magic of the music is in the harmony, in the interaction between the parts. When we remove one of the sections, something is going to

change. And when we remove one of the members of this choir, something is going to change again. Even if sometimes when we contribute our gifts to the church, we become a part of a heritage that goes far

beyond our lifetime. We receive songs from the generations who sang them before us, and we pass them on to those who will sing them in the future. Every time we learn a new anthem, introduce a new hymn to our young ones, or sing an old favorite with new voices, we become a part of this heritage. This is called stewardship. Often we think about stewardship as something we give financially, and while this is a very important aspect, stewardship is bigger than that. It's about using the gifts we are given. Our time, our attention, our creativity, our voice.

You don't have to be extraordinary to offer something extraordinary. You simply have to bring what you have and offer it humbly in faith and service.

And if you are a parent thinking about how you will manage to attend rehearsal with your littles in the mix, childcare is available during rehearsal. (Please reach out if this is of interest to you). We want families to participate in choir, and we don't want the cost of childcare to be a hindrance.

So as we prepare for the new season, consider this your personal invitation. Don't wait until you are more confident; you don't have to be an expert. Don't wait until you know more about music; rehearsal is the space to learn. Don't wait until you believe that your voice is good enough; the voice is a muscle, using it in rehearsal will improve it. Come learn. Come practice. Come make mistakes with us. Come make something beautiful with us. Because the choir is incomplete without you. Your voice is part of the tapestry.

Your presence strengthens our community. Your gift is worth sharing. We have a place just for you.

John Gladen
Minister of Music



In Need of Prayers...

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRAYERS FOR...</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Kay Kratzer	Support and Encouragement	Alex Stinekraus
Lee Anne Knapp	Strength and Support	Lee Anne Knapp
The Hanchett Family	Healing and strength for a young man following a serious self-inflicted injury.	Lee Anne Knapp
Jenn Palm and her family	Comfort and peace following the death of a son.	Lee Anne Knapp
Rebecca Uecker	Prayers of Thanksgiving for a normal immune system	Rebecca Uecker
Brandt Schafer	After many years of struggle.	Steven Schafer
John Gladen	Healing and comfort and strength for their family.	Staff
	Joy and blessings for a marriage beginning.	
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Emmaus (Eugene) and Our Redeemer (Eugene)	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.

Gathering of the Waters



Where has this summer taken you?

Perhaps you traveled somewhere new, returned to a favorite place, spent time at the coast or along a river, or simply found a meaningful spot close to home. As we prepare for our annual **Gathering of the Waters**, you're invited to bring a little of that place back with you to St. Andrew.

You don't need to have traveled far to participate. Your water might come

from an ocean or mountain lake hundreds of miles away, but it might just as meaningfully come from a neighborhood creek, your garden, or another place close to home.

As each jar arrives, the collection becomes a small reflection of the many places our St. Andrew community has been this summer. Wherever your water comes from, all are welcome to contribute.

Ready to add your water? A basket of empty collection jars is available in the narthex. Take a jar, fill it with a small amount of water from a place meaningful to you, label it, and place it with the others on the window ledge in the sanctuary. The collected waters will be used during our upcoming Gathering of the Waters.

St. Andrew Walked with You

Our annual sock drive for Outside In has officially wrapped up, and thanks to your generosity, St. Andrew collected:

393 pairs of new adult socks!

196 pairs of men's socks

&

197 pairs of women's socks

The remaining donations will be picked up the first week of September and delivered to Outside In, where they will help support young people in the Portland community.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped share God's love through this simple but meaningful act of care.

Service Committee



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 30, 2026

Romans 12:9-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Matthew 16:21-28

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 Nesset 503-866-5099

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, August 28

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 29—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

Sunday, August 30

9:30 am Outdoor Worship Sanctuary of the Firs and via Zoom

9:30 am Indoor 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

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

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

1:00 pm Sanctuary Team Meeting Main Library

1:00 pm Worship Planners Meeting St. Andrew Room

6:00 pm Columbia Willamette Faceters' Guild Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Brass Quintet Rehearsal Sanctuary

7:00 pm HR Meeting Zoom

7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Children's Commons

Wednesday, September 2—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit material to administrator@standrewlutheran.com

6:00pm Bells of Grace Rehearsal Sanctuary

6:30 pm Al-Anon Family Group Meeting Chapel

Thursday, September 3

10:00 am Strength + Stability with Susanne Fellowship Hall/Chapel

12:00 pm Private Wedding Reception Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

1:00 pm Staff Meeting Main Library

6:30 pm Wing Chun Class Children's Commons

7:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting Zoom

Friday, September 4

10:00 am Tai Chi Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 5 —Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com

9:00 am Nifty Notters Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Indoor 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.