

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

September 25, 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

Lutheran World Relief Updates & Thanks



A big thank you to everyone who donated school kit supplies, and to those who cut, serged, and sewed bags. A special thank you to Pam Farr for her endless serging, and to Susan Reiser for sewing the bulk of the bags. Next up is threading the cord through the bags, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 14**, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!

The **Fall Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering** will be held on **Friday, October 23**, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, and on **Saturday, October 24**, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed to help unload vehicles delivering boxes and then load and stack said boxes into the shipping container to be delivered via LWR. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets in the narthex or contact either Rochelle McIntire by email at PacificNWLWRgroup@gmail.com or Randy Sinn by email at sinn78home@gmail.com.

We are also in need of small- and medium-sized boxes, used or new, for packing the quilts and school kits from St Andrew. These boxes can't be too large lest they be over the weight limit. An example for size is either the small or medium boxes available from places like U-Haul or Home Depot. If you can save and donate any used boxes, please contact Mike McDowall at mcdowall.ml@gmail.com or 503-869-5685. Thank you!

Volunteers are also needed to help assemble St. Andrew's school kits on the evening of **Tuesday, October 20**, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm; food will be provided. This is a great opportunity for all ages to volunteer, and to teach the children of our congregation about the work of LWR and the importance of volunteering.



Final Days of WFWA Collection Drive



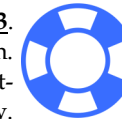
The St. Andrew Service Committee is collecting clothing and food for the Western Farm Workers Association (WFWA) through **Sunday, October 4**. This year, the WFWA has requested we collect coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, work pants, rain jackets, and work boots. **All clothing must be new or gently used, in good repair, and not soiled.**

In addition to clothing, the WFWA needs the following food items for its food pantry: tuna, beans, rice, peanut butter, jam, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and cooking oil. Your donations of non-perishables to its food pantry will help support the WFWA families when there is no work in the fields.

Please place clothing items in the tall barrel in the narthex. Food items should go in bags or boxes nearby. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Reiser.

Out of Darkness Walk

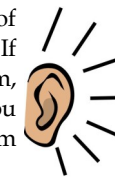
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is holding a fund-raising walk on **Saturday, October 3**. Check-in opens at 9:00 am and walk starts at 11:00 am. The starting location is 2555 N Channel Ave., Portland. A team from St. Andrew is being formed now. The walk is one to three miles, and it is not a race. If you are interested in joining the walk, you can sign up using the sheet on the coffee bar in the narthex or by emailing Cindy Stadel at cstadel@hevanet.com. Not able to walk, but would still like to support the cause? You can donate to St. Andrew's team by going to afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/406259.



Let's Talk

A small group at St. Andrew has been talking about the challenges of ministering to those impacted by suicide. One key element of working with someone who has lost a loved one to suicide, or someone who has suicidal thoughts, is listening. It is a myth that talking about suicide will encourage people to attempt or complete it. Compassionate conversation can really help.

Let's make St. Andrew a place where the issues of mental health and suicide can be openly discussed. If someone speaks to you about thoughts of self-harm, listen compassionately, if you can. If you feel that you are not the right person for the conversation, help them get connected with one of the pastors. Let's listen.



If you or someone you know is struggling with depression or suicidal ideation, you can call or text 988 for support. You are not alone.

What's Next for Children & Youth Leadership

The St. Andrew Congregational Council has asked the HR Committee to develop a 30 hours-per-week Youth Director position (the exact title of this position is to be determined). This will replace the Director of Next Generational Ministry role, held by Kyler Vogt, until his departure last July. We are in the process of formulating a job description and we want your involvement!!



Congregation members are invited to give us their thoughts at tinyurl.com/StAndyYD. If interested in sharing opinions, please take five minutes to complete that Google Form online by **Sunday, October 4**. If you need help navigating or completing the form, please call Beth Johnson at 971-570-3417.

Finally, members of the HR Committee will host a Zoom forum for parents and volunteers to give input. Parents of children and youth, along with volunteer teachers and leaders who work with the Roots Program, Confirmation, or Youth Group, will meet via Zoom **this Tuesday, September 29**, at 7:30 pm. Parents and volunteers, please watch your inbox for a Zoom link.

We look forward to hearing your ideas!

HR Committee

Final Tally from St. Andrew’s 2026 Book Sale

Booklovers of St. Andrew and all who are curious: The 2026 book sale raised \$144.00 on the day of the sale, and \$1,367.67 in Powell’s credit afterward, for a total of \$1,511.67!

Thank you all for a great sale, and for all the wonderful books you brought in; the books sold to Powell’s, the others that went in the book sale—which were shared among the people of St. Andrew and brought them new reading experiences—and the ones you so graciously allowed to go out into the community via Little Free Libraries. Some of them even went into the Christmas boxes for Barnes School, as well!

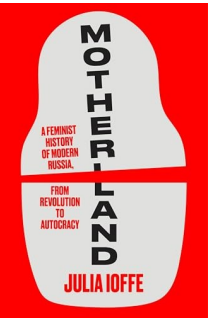


It’s a wonderful thing when people get together for a common goal. So thank you all, especially those who helped set up, clean up, handle money, as well as the gal who made the lovely cards.

Pam Farr
Head Librarian

Book Report on Motherland: A Feminist History of Modern Russia... by Julia Ioffe

This was not the easiest book to read, as it started a way long time ago, and was written by a Russian. This means that, as all Russians seem to have at least five names, each person can be referred to by all five, one only, several abbreviated ones, or a combination of any, (not necessarily the same one or three or whatever,) making it quite a challenge even before you get to the subject matter. So I was quite often unsure of who the author was writing about.



The author is related to most of the people in the book—in some fashion—and several are quite well-known names. Stalin and his poor daughter Svetlana, Lenin, Kruschev, and people off the pages of yesterday’s newspaper. These people also had dealings with other well-known names, like Roosevelt, Eisenhower, Trump, Barbara Bush, an English guy and a Russian guy whose names I cannot now recall. And poor Navalney.

All these hard and horrid stories, all tied together by history and the strange world of “Russian-think,” which I will never understand, nor was I meant to. I think you have to be Russian.

However, like the Bible, it’s amazing how long she can go on about all her past relatives, just like she really knew them. Perhaps the history was repeated so many times it was easy for her. I only know maybe a sentence about some of mine. But then the Russians never seem to forget what’s been done to them.

Like with Stalin, after he’s gone, they hang all that stuff on his daughter. I’ve been trying to find examples of what I mean in the book, but unfortunately I can’t. It seems like they never called her by her name, but called her little Stalin.

As I said the book is a hard read, but toward the end the names get a lot more familiar even though the stories don’t get any better. But I think it’s a valuable read to learn what other people deal with and what women of other countries view as normal.



Russian women could vote in the early 1900’s, but they were also expected to work full-time, take care of the children, and have dinner on the table when the husband came home. Then, if money was needed, she could go out and work a second job, actually giving her three jobs a day. She could join the military in WWII as a fighter pilot. But she was also to expect that her husband might beat her and she must say nothing about it, as, after all, it was expected and was his right. Husbands never worked more than one job, and it was a rare one who did any housework. Yet they feel their style of liberation is much better than ours!

Pam Farr
Head Librarian

Outdoor Worship & Blessing of the Animals

Our final Sanctuary of the Firs service of the year will be on **Sunday, October 4**. In honor of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will welcome pets and beloved creatures to this outdoor service for a Blessing of the Animals. All types of animals are welcome if they are appropriately contained (eg. dogs must be on leash) and do not present any safety concerns.



We would love to see a mix of cats, dogs, turtles, hamsters, and other creatures! If your animal is not able to attend the service, you are invited to bring a photo. You may also bring photos of beloved pets who have died, animal species that are endangered, or other animals you would like blessed.

As usual, a simultaneous concurrent service will be held in the sanctuary. Animals may not attend indoors, but you are invited to bring photos of animals to the indoor service to be blessed.

In case of rain: If weather prohibits us from worshiping outdoors, we will send out an email cancellation notice, and the in-person Blessing of the Animals will be postponed. Photos of animals will still be blessed at our service indoors.

MACG Leadership Academy: A Deep Dive into One-to-One Relational Meetings



One-to-one conversations are the backbone of community organizing. To lead collectively, we need to be able to build relationships of trust across the differences that often divide us. When we make the effort to dive below the surface of, “Hey, how’s it going?” and instead share the stories that shape us, we can discover strengths and shared interests in working together for the common good.

Having meaningful conversation with someone new is counter-cultural and can bring up feelings of discomfort. Join this training to learn the skills needed to allay these fears, strengthen your practice, and open up the possibility for transformation latent in every interaction. It will be held on **Sunday, October 4**, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, at Havurah Shalom, 825 NW 18th Ave. in Portland. Please register in advance at forms.gle/N4bow6smTmfesb9t6.

This training is intended for those who are already familiar with the basics of organizing—if you have been to a MACG training, or one of the classes led by St. Andrew’s Community Organizing Team, you’re good to go.

If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the St. Andrew Community Organizing Team: Pat Christiansen, Amy Peahl, Gretchen Bancroft, Lynn Santelmann, Sonja Ackman, or Pr. Allison Bengfort.

In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Elizabeth (daughter)	Accurate diagnosis and healing	Rick & Sandy Koch
Mary Brown	Comfort and peace	Mary Brown
Darryl Eldridge	Continued healing	Darryl Eldridge
Cory (cousin)	Healing and adequate accommodations	Carol Hogan
Emily (daughter)	Healing and recovery following surgery	Liz Hardy
Francine Cach	Healing and recovery following surgery	Francine Cach
Stacye Erickson	Successful surgery and healing	Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Tom Erickson (Stacye’s husband) and Dana Taylor-Blakemore	Comfort and support as they accompany Stacye Erickson on her healing journey	Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Dianne (cousin)	Successful treatment and healing	Mary Smith
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	Blessings on our ministry	Staff
ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry	Strength and wisdom	Staff
ELCA Church Council and Staff	Courage and wisdom	Staff
Ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners in ministry	Blessings on their work	Staff
Loved ones in need of ongoing prayer, including Tandy Brooks, Stacye Erickson, Rhonda Powell, Arden Tarum, Megan Webber	Healing and assurance of God’s presence	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, esp. Faith (Albany) and Good Shepherd (Albany)	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.		

Embracing the Wetlands:
Habitat Restoration & Stewardship Event on Oct. 3

Recently, on September 18, volunteers with The Wetlands Conservancy conducted a beaver survey in nearby Peppertree Park. Peppertree Park is primarily a seasonal flood-plain, and is directly north of St. Andrew’s woods and wetlands. Johnson Creek runs through both properties and is home to much wildlife. Shea Fuller, community engagement manager with The Wetlands Conservancy, shared some of the survey’s findings.



Despite only surveying one third of the natural area, they discovered there was a good mix of old and new beaver activity. Many old chews and felled trees alongside seven freshly constructed dams. In addition, a number of unexpected wildlife sightings were spotted along southwest Johnson Creek. They saw song-birds, footprints, an (unfortunately) injured rough-skinned newt, poops of all kinds, a garden spider, an orb-weaver spider, a great blue heron, ducks, freshwater mussels, minnows, a garter snake, and even a praying mantis that was eating a banded woolly bear caterpillar! They were surrounded by beg-gartick, jewelweed, wapato, tule, and smartweed. Overhead, they heard sparrows, red winged blackbirds, belted kingfishers, chickadees, and red breasted nuthatches.

To see and connect with this beautiful and diverse habitat consider joining the Earth Care Team on **Saturday, September 26**, as it works to restore habitat and steward the Johnson Creek slope along the west side of the St. Andrew property. You will see how the Oregon white oaks planted back in February are faring, and work to clear invasive weeds to allow for growth of newly-planted native plants.

On **Saturday, October 3**, the Earth Care Team will lead an Adventure Walk further into the wetlands to see the beaver activity and dams; please join us. Embrace this Season of Creation by connecting with the Living Water of our own diverse wetlands.

Earth Care Team

St. Andrew Contacts	Council President Allison Katsuftrakis..... 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

Upcoming Pastoral Absences

Pr. Allison Bengfort will be away next week for continuing education in Peru. She will depart after worship on **Sunday, September 27**, and will return to the office on **Tuesday, October 6**.

Pr. Colleen Nelson will be away starting **tomorrow, September 26**, and will return the following **Saturday, October 3**.

For pastoral concerns and emergencies **from September 27 through October 2** please contact Kim Taylor-Blakemore at 503-545-6133.



**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, October 4, 2026

Isaiah 55:1, 10-12
Revelation 22:1-2

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, September 25		
10:00 am	Tai Chi	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Facilities Rekeying Project Meeting	Library (Main Level)
Saturday, September 26—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com		
Sunday, September 27		
9:30 am	Worship with Children’s Church	Sanctuary, livestream, and via Zoom
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
11:00 am	Adult Ed Living the Liturgy: The Hows, Whys, and Wherefores of Lutheran Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	West Side Youth Collective Information Session (for Middle & High School Youth).....	Youth Room
6:00 pm	Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
Monday, September 28		
Tuesday, September 29		
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
12:00 pm	Bridge Group.....	Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Chapel
7:00 pm	Brass Quintet Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
7:30 pm	Parent & Volunteer Input Session for New Youth Director Position.....	via Zoom
Wednesday, September 30—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit to office@standrewlutheran.com & administrator@standrewlutheran.com		
5:00 pm	Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
6:00 pm	Bells of Grace Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Al-Anon Family Group Meeting	Chapel
7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Thursday, October 1		
10:00 am	Strength + Stability with Susanne	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Light Opera of Portland Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Wing Chun Class.....	Children’s Commons
Friday, October 2		
10:00 am	Tai Chi	Fellowship Hall
10:30 am	MACG Meeting	St. Andrew Room
Saturday, October 3—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com		
9:00 am	Nifty Notters	Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Adventure Walk	St. Andrew property
Sunday, October 4		
9:30 am	Outdoor Worship	Sanctuary of the Firs and via Zoom
9:30 am	Indoor Worship	Sanctuary
9:30 am	Portland Taiwan Worship Service	Chapel
10:45 am	Taiwanese Church Fellowship Gathering	Chapel
11:00 am	Adult Ed Living the Liturgy: The Hows, Whys, and Wherefores of Lutheran Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Confirmation for Middle School Youth	Library (Main Level)
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room
1:00 pm	Washington County Climate Organizing Meeting	St. Andrew Room

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.