

ST. ANDREW WEEKLY NEWS

October 16, 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 Note about Pastoral Care & Emergencies

Pr. Colleen Nelson, St. Andrew's Associate Bridge Pastor for Caring Ministries, is out of town until further notice due to a family concern. For pastoral care needs during this time, please reach out to either Pr. Allison Bengfort at 563-210-6304 or seminarian Kim Taylor-Blakemore at 503-545-6133.



All Good Things Must Come to an End...

They say that all good things must come to an end, and, after 51 years, it is time for me to retire from music ministry.



I started being active in Church as a child at Maple Leaf Lutheran in Seattle; singing in the Cherub Choir with my two older brothers, serving as an acolyte, folding bulletins on Saturdays with my best friend (who was our pastor's son), and accompanying youth choir during high school.

I began playing the organ in worship while at college in Bellingham, and have served in four different denominations in Oregon and Washington as an organist, choir director, or music minister—sometimes in all three roles simultaneously! But, as many of you know, time takes its toll, and our faculties are not as sharp as they once were. I have appreciated your support of my ministry here at St. Andrew, and it has been a joy to play your wonderful pipe organ and help lead worship, in addition to working together with Pr. Allison, John, the choir, the worship team, and handbells. In January, I will be taking on a long-term substitute position in an elementary music classroom (something I have done at four different schools since retiring from full-time teaching in 2021). Following that, I plan to permanently retire from teaching, my primary career that began in 1979. While I will miss using my musical gifts in worship every week, I feel incredibly privileged to have been able to share them in thanks to, and honor of, God over these many years. I wish all of you the very best in your continuing ministry here at St. Andrew, and out in the community and world.

Karl Gustafson
Parish Musician

Barak Teifel

Celebration of Life
Saturday, October 17
2:00 pm, Sanctuary

*Reception to follow
in Fellowship Hall*



Thanksgiving Meals for Community Action

The Service Committee is again sponsoring Thanksgiving meals for Community Action families, and we need your help. Community Action works with families on parenting, financial stability, housing, and education. It also runs the Head Start program here at St. Andrew. Our goal is to collect \$6,525, which is enough to buy eighty-seven \$75 WinCo gift cards for these families. Any donations that exceed our goal will be used for our upcoming Barnes School Christmas Giving Tree or donated to the St. Matthew Food Pantry for feeding community members in need.



If you wish to give online, select "Thanksgiving Community Action Donation" in the drop-down menu below "Fund," or you can send a check payable to St. Andrew with "Thanksgiving Donation" written in the memo line.

This is a wonderful way to live out our faith, as well as giving families in need the chance to truly celebrate Thanksgiving. Please consider helping with a donation of any amount this year. Our deadline to receive donations is **Monday, November 16**.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

- LuAnn Staul (ljstaul@gmail.com / 503-314-6321), or
- Linda McDowall (mcdowall.ml@gmail.com / 503-649-5091).

Fall LWR Ingathering Is Next Weekend!

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 emailing PacificNWLWRgroup@gmail.com or Randy Sinn by emailing 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 **this Tuesday, October 20**, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm, and 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.



The Growing Movement to Ban Leaf Blowers

Adapted from article by Gemma Alexander on Earth911.com, Oct. 2022

Few things are as pleasant as spending a quiet autumn morning on the porch with a cup of coffee listening to wind rustle the leaves on the trees and watching as they drift to the ground. Except that the roar of a leaf blower somewhere in the neighborhood nearly always destroys that scenario.



Gas-powered leaf blower

Worse than noise: Even people who use leaf blowers acknowledge that they are obnoxiously loud. The sound level for the person operating one exceeds 100 decibels, nearly double the World Health Organization’s outdoor daytime standards of 55 decibels for up to 800 feet, or the distance of about two blocks.

But leaf blowers do more harm than just making noise. Gas-powered landscaping equipment has an outsized environmental impact. In California, leaf blowers contribute more to pollution than vehicles. Most models utilize a 2-stroke engine where only 70% of the fuel completely combusts. As a result, 2-stroke engines produce nearly 300 times the greenhouse gas emissions of a pickup truck! Blowers blast air up to 280 miles per hour which can erode topsoil and disperse pollen, fertilizers, and herbicides into the air. Insects can be blasted from their habitats and birds can be driven away.

Environmental justice: The people using these machines experience the most impact. While the noise is an irritation to neighbors, the user (even with ear protection) is at risk for permanent hearing loss from cumulative exposure to high volume. The operator is also at ground zero for exposure to the carbon monoxide and unburned fuel that are released. Landscaping workers who run a leaf blower inhale 10 times more ultra-fine particles than someone standing next to a busy road. A homeowner may choose that risk for an hour on the weekend, but the people who are most affected are landscaping professionals. Nationally, 46% of landscapers are Latino, a group which already suffers disproportional impacts of environmental injustice.

Better blowers and landscapers: There is growing momentum across the country to ban gas-powered blowers; more than 100 municipalities already have some restrictions. While electric-powered blowers used to be less effective than gas-powered blowers, today they are just as effective. It’s true that landscapers who use electric blowers charge higher rates because the batteries are expensive, but what you are paying for is worker safety, less noise pollution, and less environmental damage. If you hire a landscaper, make sure they provide high quality dust masks, safety goggles, and ear protection for their workers.



Electric-powered leaf blower

The right way to blow: You frequently see people using blowers to scatter leaves, often into the street, which clogs storm drains and might even be illegal, depending on local laws. Blowers are meant to blow the bulk of the leaves into a pile, ideally onto a tarp that can be lifted and dumped, hopefully into your yard waste container and **not** the garbage bin, the latter of which then goes to the landfill and creates methane gas, a very potent greenhouse gas. A rake is used to collect stray leaves which results in less running time of the blower and reduces its emissions.

Better yet, blow the leaves (even better, rake them) into flower beds to be used as free mulch. Best of all is to let the leaves lie wherever they fall on grass or other planting areas to contribute to soil health. Again, it’s free mulch!

Liz Hardy
Earth Care Team

Final Report from Transition Consultant

Over the course of the last program year, St. Andrew engaged the services of Pr. Julia Nielsen, a consultant recommended to us by the Bishop’s office. Pr. Julia spent many hours in conversation, observation, research, and collaboration with the St. Andrew community in order to better understand and recommend a course of action regarding the hiring of additional pastoral staff. We had a preview of her report in last year’s Annual Report, but now the complete Congregational Report has been handed over to the Council, and we would like to share its contents with the whole congregation. Everyone is invited for a presentation and discussion during the Education Hour on **Sunday, October 25**, at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. We will distribute copies of the report, present some of its findings, and respond to it together as a community.

After this initial presentation, we hope that you’ll take the time to read it, pray over it, and discuss it with your fellow members, especially in your own small ministry groups. In December, we plan to hold a series of conversations during the Education Hour to break down some of its findings on a more detailed level. More information about those sessions will arrive soon.



If you cannot attend the **October 25** session, we will make the report available to you afterwards. Please contact me by email at president@standrewlutheran.com if you have any other questions or concerns.

Allison Katsufraakis
Council President

Spirituality Book Group News

The Spirituality Book Group will meet on **Sunday, October 25**, at 2:30 pm to discuss the book *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali. Fran Miller will lead discussion in the upstairs library.

“A touching portrait of courage and friendship...played out in the midst of the Iranian Revolution of the 1970s, regime change, political persecution, emigration, and devastating loss.”
— *Kirkus Reviews*

All are welcome at Spirituality Book Group discussion. For more information, contact Mary Smith (dbits1@gmail.com).

Next month, on **November 22**, Connie Losk will lead discussion on *Born Survivors: Three Young Mothers and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage, Defiance, and Hope* by Wendy Holden.

The Spirituality Book Group will not meet in December. Discussions resume in the new year, with these titles already selected:

- **January 2027:** *Theo of Golden: A Novel* by Allen Levi
- **February:** *Laziness Does Not Exist* by Devon Price, Ph.D.
- **March:** *Whistling past the Graveyard: A Novel* by Susan Crandall

Discussion leaders and meeting dates are to be announced.



In Need of Prayers...

NAME	PRAYERS FOR...	CONTACT
Family and friends of Mary Brown	Peace and God’s comfort at her death	Beverly Briggs
Gordon & Carolyn Teifel	Peace and God’s comfort at death of son, Barak	St. Andrew Staff
Tracy Powell and family	Peace and God’s comfort at death of mother, Mary Lou	St. Andrew Staff
Sharon T. (friend)	Continued healing and the strength to return home	Rebecca Uecker
Stacye Erickson (cousin-in-law)	Strength and healing	Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Tom Erickson (Stacye’s husband) and Dana Taylor-Blakemore (Stacye’s cousin)	Comfort and support as they accompany Stacye Erickson through health complications	Kim Taylor-Blakemore
Nora Duggan (daughter)	Successful surgery on October 28	Tim & Sharon Duggan
Those receiving ongoing pastoral care, including Bob Brown, Dave Bumgardner, Bettye Eldridge, Margaret Herder, Vera Hutchinson, Glenath Moyle, Sharon Roth, Erin Tarum, Ida Trullinger	Assurance of God’s presence	Staff
People experiencing hopelessness, desperation, or suicidal thoughts	Healing, strength, and support	Staff
All who are imprisoned	Peace and strength	Staff
Churches serving with us in the Oregon Synod, especially Saint Mark (Salem) & Immanuel (Silverton)	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.		

Volunteers Needed to Serve as Event and Kitchen Hosts

St. Andrew is looking for individuals interested in helping us welcome community groups and organizations that use our facilities!

We’re hoping to build a team of **Event Hosts** who can assist with occasional gatherings by opening the building, ensuring rooms are set up appropriately, adjusting thermostats, and being available to answer questions or provide assistance during events.



We’re also interested in identifying **Kitchen Hosts** who can help support those events that require use of our kitchen facilities.

Opportunities will vary depending on the size and needs of each event, and **some may include compensation for your time**. There is no regular schedule or ongoing commitment. You can simply help when your availability allows!

If you’re interested in serving as an Event Host, Kitchen Host, or both, or you have any questions, please contact events@standrewlutheran.com. We’d love to hear from you!

Facility Management Team

Apply for Earth Camp Director 2027



The HR Team is currently in the process of hiring for a new youth director at St. Andrew. We expect that person to join the staff in 2027. In the meantime, planning for Earth Camp 2027 needs to begin now! We have created a one-year 2027 Earth Camp Director position with a stipend of \$5,000. St. Andrew community members who have familiarity with Earth Camp are encouraged to apply! The position posting can be found on the St. Andrew website under “Job Openings,” and will remain open until **October 25, 2026**.

Looking Ahead

- ◆ **October 25** is Reformation Sunday. Worship will be accompanied by brass quintet, and you’re encouraged to wear red!
- ◆ **November 1** is All Saints’ Day and the end of Daylight Saving Time. Don’t forget to “fall back” or you’ll show up an hour early for worship!
- ◆ **November 11** is Veterans Day, a holiday for St. Andrew’s staff. The church building will be closed, but ministry team meetings and rehearsals will be held as scheduled.

No Kings: Vote Early

A short rally will be held at Beaverton City Park **this Saturday, October 17**, at 2:00 pm. Attendees are invited to bring their ballot, if possible, as the rally will include the opportunity to deposit ballots together. For more information and to register, visit mobilize.us/nokings/event/1037641.



St. Andrew Contacts

Council President Allison Katsuftrakis.....	president@standrewlutheran.com
Lead Pr. Allison Bengfort	pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com, 563-210-6304
Assoc. Pr. Colleen Nelson.....	out of office until further notice
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



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 25, 2026

Romans 3:19-28
Psalm 46
John 8:31-36

Highlights for the Week at St. Andrew

Friday, October 16		
10:00 am	Tai Chi	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, October 17—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com		
2:00 pm	Celebration of Life for Barak Teifel	Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, October 18		
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	Confirmation for Middle School Youth	Library (Main Level)
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room
11:00 am	Worship Leader Training	Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall
Monday, October 19		
Tuesday, October 20		
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
5:00 pm	Evening Prayer	Chapel
5:00 pm	School Kits Bag Assembly.....	Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Brass Quintet Rehearsal.....	Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Co-Treasurers Meeting	via Zoom
Wednesday, October 21—Weekly News deadline is 4:00 pm; submit to office@standrewlutheran.com & administrator@standrewlutheran.com		
5:00 pm	Immigrant Story Storytelling Rehearsal	Fellowship Hall
5:00 pm	Stewardship Team Meeting	Library (Main Level)
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 22		
10:00 am	Strength + Stability with Susanne	Fellowship Hall
11:00 am	Earth Care Team Meeting	St. Andrew Room
11:00 am	Soul Shop Planning Group	Library (Main Level)
1:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Library (Main Level)
7:00 pm	Council Meeting.....	Chapel, St. Andrew Room
7:00 pm	IT Meeting.....	Offsite
7:00 pm	Wing Chun Class.....	Children’s Commons
Friday, October 23		
8:00 am	Lutheran World Relief Fall 2026 Ingathering	Community Garden Parking Lot
10:00 am	Tai Chi	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, October 24—Sunday Worship Announcements deadline is 11:59 pm; submit announcements to pastorallison@standrewlutheran.com		
9:00 am	Lutheran World Relief Fall 2026 Ingathering	Community Garden Parking Lot
Sunday, October 25		
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	Confirmation for Middle School Youth	Library (Main Level)
11:00 am	High School Youth Group	Youth Room
11:00 am	Transition Report Presentation.....	Fellowship Hall
2:30 pm	Spirituality Book Group	Library (Main Level)
4:00 pm	West Side Youth Collective Gathering	Christ UMC Cedar Mill (12755 NW Dogwood St, Portland)

Worship at St. Andrew or Connect to Virtual Worship



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.*



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.