

The Net

September 2026 · Volume 23 · Number 8 · www.stpetersbythesea.org

St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 619-224-2894

Preschool Phone: 619-224-1689

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Wow, wow, wow! I am so thrilled to finally have been able to share with you all the conceptual designs, costs, and project details for the construction of a new sanctuary. I am also incredibly heartened by the level of participation that we had at the First Impression Gathering on August 16 and the subsequent Zoom First Impression Gathering that we had the following Tuesday for those who live far away or couldn't attend the in-person gathering.

For anyone who was not able to attend and hasn't seen the case statement with all of the facts and figures, we are proposing to build a new sanctuary and where our current sanctuary stands, we would create a beautiful sanctuary garden courtyard. The leaders of the church believe that this has the potential to increase our capacity for ministry and set St. Peter's on sound footing to share and seek God's love well into the future!

The First Impressions Gathering revealed a great deal of excitement for the plan! People responded with excitement about the open space without columns, the overall design, the built-in flexibility of the space, the natural light and the courtyard! One person responded in their questionnaire that "God is working here!" Another person wrote that they were most excited by "the overall enthusiasm that I feel within the room!"

There have also been so many thoughtful questions that have been raised, mostly to do with how realistic it is to fund a project of this magnitude being a church of our size. I'm so relieved that you all are paying attention! This is a big deal and a question that we take seriously.

Right now, we are in a period of time called a **feasibility study**. By the time this newsletter is shared, we will have had the First Impressions Gatherings, hosted upwards of 20 interviews with a cross section of the congregation, and invited 100% of the congregation to give feedback

Worship Services

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. onsite
& live-streamed

Staff

Rev. Bekki Lohrmann, pastor

pastor@stpetersbythesea.org

Janine Morrow, Office Administrator

office@stpetersbythesea.org

Dori Hoadley, Preschool Director

preschool@stpetersbythesea.org

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

Music.minister@stpetersbythesea.org

Betty Wells, Hospitality Coordinator

Hannah DeMers, Newsletter Editor

2026 Council

Greg Lommen, President

Jennifer Smart, Vice-President

Allison Crews, Secretary

Ellen Schmeding, Treasurer

Gabi Hughes; Chance McGinley-Kase;

Fletcher Miller; Steve Silva

through a survey. Horizon Stewardship is the organization that we have hired and are partnering with to help us answer the question of affordability. Can we responsibly take on a project of this financial magnitude?

Right about the time this letter is published, we will be finding out the results of this feasibility study which will give us a range of what our strategist, Don Smith, believes we can raise based on your feedback. So we will know relatively soon whether or not this project is possible.

In the meantime, you have raised such valuable insights that no matter which direction the project takes, the leadership and the architects will be taking into the next phase. Questions like, does this design point us inward towards ourselves, or outward towards the world God so loves? How does this space enable us to serve others? Have you taken into consideration the need for proper acoustics, especially for those with hearing loss? How will we honor the past while making space for what is new?

Now is the time for communication. If you do not feel that you have had an adequate opportunity to share your thoughts, please call the office or email me and set up a time to talk with myself or another member of the council or building steering team.

In the meantime, I stand by what I said in my sermon on August 16; that none of us know what is going to happen when we cast our nets. I thank you for the way you have participated in casting this vision. The only way to know if it's of God is to share it, cast it and see what comes back!

Deep peace and joy,
Pastor Bekki

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on August 19, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	July Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$34,222.00	\$260,310.18	\$237,124.93	\$23,185.25
Expense	\$31,679.07	\$218,290.10	\$237,125.00	<\$18,834.90>
Difference	\$2,542.93	\$42,020.08		

St. Peter's by the Sea Building Fund 2026

July 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$109,921.11	\$256,167.02	\$366,088.13
Income	\$1,388.58	\$0	\$1,388.58
Expense	\$525.00	\$0	\$525.00
Ending Balance	\$110,784.69	\$256,167.02	\$366,951.71

MUSIC NOTES

Sunday school teachers, marketers, hymn writers, rock stars, and kindergarten teachers are all well aware that “what is learned in song is remembered long.” Music is a powerful teaching tool; neuroscience backs this up. Pairing information with music helps our brain retrieve that information with ease; music plus words equals recall.

Throughout the Bible we find “songs”: Miriam’s, Moses’, Isaiah’s, the Psalms, the Song of Solomon, and Mary’s Magnificat, to name just a few. Words set to music to write them onto the hearts of God’s people. Because throughout the Bible, also, we find stories of God’s people forgetting and needing to be called back to remembrance—as do we!

But words set to music do more than just remind us; they also teach us. They lay down the message in our brain and impress upon us their truth. We may often find ourselves humming a song from Sunday’s service even though we can’t remember the details of Pastor’s sermon. (Nothing against Pastor’s sermons!!!) However, if you don’t sing the songs and/or focus on the words, you may miss part of the day’s lessons. Hymns are not chosen willy-nilly, but specifically to augment that day’s readings and message.

Allow the songs to train you in the language of Scripture, sound doctrine, and spiritual disciplines. Let them carve memory paths deep in your mind so that the words can inform, comfort, and motivate you. Let them give you the gift of a good memory in an age of formidable forgetfulness.

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

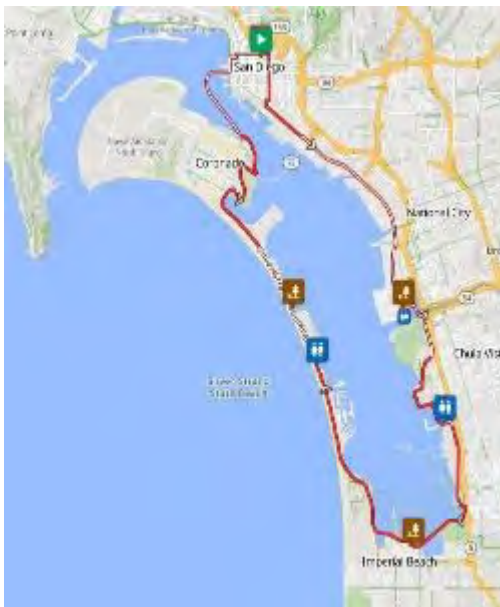
TACO NEWS

Bike the Bay the TACO Way!

October 3
8:00 a.m.

Third Avenue Charitable Organization’s annual *Bike the Bay the TACO Way* fundraiser is Saturday, October 3, at 8:00 a.m. followed by a picnic lunch at noon. The ride is fully supported with water stations and a SAG Wagon.

Help fund TACO’s vital programs helping the homeless community. All fees and sponsorships go directly to social services, meals, and advocacy for our unhoused neighbors!



Join St. Peter’s team for a 25-mile ride around San Diego Bay. The ride is mostly bike paths, with a few sections of shared road, and a ferry ride return!

TEAM NAME: St. Peter’s Bikers or search St. Peter’s by the Sea Lutheran Church

Registration is \$50; use any of the methods below to sign up:
Click [HERE](#) to join the team or
Go to: www.tacosd.org

Any questions? Contact Shawn or Janine

If you’re unable to make the ride, you can be a sponsor! Click [HERE](#) or go to: www.tacosd.org for sponsor information.

Deadline to register is September 28.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's Friends and Families,

We are so excited to welcome everyone back for another wonderful year! A special welcome to our returning families and a very warm welcome to our new families. We are thrilled to have you as a part of our preschool community and look forward to getting to know each of you and your children.



As we begin the new school year our classrooms will be filled with opportunities for learning, exploring, creating, and making new friends. We'll be kicking off our LETTER OF THE WEEK alphabet study and beginning our journey through the ABCs and 123s in fun, developmentally appropriate ways.

Our fall learning will also focus on important concepts such as taking care of ourselves, our 5 senses, and autumn concepts. Through stories, songs, hands-on activities, art, and play, the children will have lots of opportunities to discover and learn about the world around them.

****Mark Your Calendar****

We will be closed in honor of Labor Day September 7

School Pictures September 23

Preschool Fundraiser September 28 at Classics Malt Shop 3-7 p.m.

Bring the family and enjoy a fun evening together - you can enjoy dinner at Classics Malt Shop as well as a sweet, all while supporting the scholarship fund at our preschool. We would love to see as many of our friends and families there as possible.



Thank you for being such an important part of our preschool family. We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, laughter, friendship, and lots of wonderful memories. 😊

Warmly,

Dori Hoadley

Director, St. Peter's Preschool

preschool@stpetersbythesea.org

619-224-1689

ANCHOR STATION IN OCEAN BEACH

We are excited to be a part of the team of Point Loma/Ocean Beach churches who have gathered together under the umbrella of Love Thy Neighborhood, a nonprofit organization in Point Loma, to open a resource center for our neighbors in need. Seven churches have come together with Love Thy Neighborhood and formed a steering committee with the intent of developing a place similar to the Compass Station in Pacific Beach. It is a place where our neighbors in need can access computers and charging stations along with an existing place to have their mail delivered. The current location will be the Episcopal Center on Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Our Endowment Committee has provided just over \$700 as our contribution to this, and the six other churches are in the process of making contributions also.

The group has decided to launch a pilot period to assess the needs of our neighbors. This is planned to begin mid-September and go until mid-November. After this pilot period, we will have a better idea of what the needs of our neighbors are and we will make adjustments as necessary. We hope to be able to have a permanent presence in Ocean Beach and eventually an array of services that will be helpful to our neighbors in need.

This vision began several years ago with the faith leaders that have been gathering in our community with the leadership of Pastor Bekki. We are excited to launch this and look forward to St. Peter's ongoing support as we discern the ongoing needs.

THANK YOUs

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for sending me to confirmation camp. I am super glad because of the experiences it gave me. It also helped me grow my faith and was extremely enjoyable.



- from Cameron Box

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

Confirmation Announcements

We have four confirmands that will be confirmed on Oct. 25. Save the date!

Confirmation will meet Sept 13, Sept 27, and October 11 in preparation for the big day!

PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

God's Work. Our Hands.

Border Church with Worship and Service Project

Sunday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.

For this year's God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, many of our ELCA congregations (including St. Peter's by the Sea) are partnering with the Border Church.

Together, we will participate in a special worship service and community service project hosted at Friendship Park on Monument Mesa, situated along the U.S. side of the border wall.

We will gather for worship at Friendship Park at 1:30 p.m. Immediately after worship, we will gather under the park's shade sails for a lunch of carne asada and pollo asado. A freewill offering will be collected with all proceeds benefitting the Border Church in Playas, which provides Sunday lunch for 50-100 people every week. Following lunch, we will have a beach clean-up along the border.

To sign up, click [HERE](#) and let Pastor Bekki know that you plan to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Directory Updates

Please make the following updates to your current Membership Directory:

Diane Sherwood
(contact the church office for update)

Lauren Hirota & Charlie Dohrmann
(contact the church office for update)

Women's Spiritual Book Study

Tuesday, Sept. 15

Noon: Social/lunch (bring your own)

12:30-1:30 - Book discussion

Book: *Weathering Change* by Courtney Ellis

Please note a change in the time of day for the book study. We are moving to a day time study for this year. We will meet on the third Tuesday of each month, Sept-May (no meeting in Dec). Each participant is asked to obtain her own copy of the book.

Patti Benjamin has graciously agreed to coordinate emails for the group. If you are interested in being on the email list, please contact her with your name and email address.

Please join us for a year of spiritual growth and fellowship.

Save the Dates:

Sunday, September 13 – God's Work. Our Hands.
Sunday

Saturday, October 3 – Blessing of the Pets

IN MEMORIUM

We remember those who have recently died and keep their families in our prayers. Christian sympathy is offered to the family and friends of:

✠ Kenneth Muehleman

A memorial service will be held at St. Peter's by the Sea on Saturday, October 24.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee met on July 22, 2026. Members present included Kevin Box, Richard Doering, Charles Lauger, Richard Montgomery, and Pastor Bekki Lohrmann.

The Financial Secretary's report was presented and for the quarter ending June 30, 2026, there was \$6,170.92 total available for distribution. Matching funds requests were received for: Loaves & Fishes (OBEF); Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO); ELCA Global Refuge; Lutheran Disaster Response; Pacifica Synod Welcome Center; and Casa Cornelia.

Below is a summary of the distribution of funds.

Missions and Programs Grants:

- ◇ Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- ◇ Pacifica Synod Welcome Center
- ◇ ELCA Disaster Response
- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- ◇ St. Andrew's LC Haitian family Support Fund

Outreach Grants:

- ◇ Ocean Beach Emergency Fund (Loaves & Fishes)
- ◇ Global Refuge
- ◇ Casa Cornelia
- ◇ Love Thy Neighborhood – OB Anchor Station

Educational Grants:

- ◇ St. Peter's Youth Ministry
- ◇ Scholarships (5)

Building Grants

- ◇ Building Maintenance
- ◇ Sanctuary Remodel

The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2026. If you have matching fund requests for the Endowment Committee to consider, send your checks and information to the church office.

INTERFAITH SHELTER NEWS

SAVE THE DATES: JAN 30-FEB 27 Interfaith Shelter Network 2027

Save the dates: We are once again going to provide food and housing through the Interfaith Shelter Network beach rotation. We have had wonderful partnerships with All Souls' Episcopal and now Westminster Presbyterian that we have agreed to have the Shelter at St. Peter's for a 4-week period. Last year we were able to help the Beaches rotation by having the guests for 3 weeks and now feel called to do one more week this coming year. We will have guests from January 30 to February 27 with St. Peter's taking the first and fourth week and our partners taking weeks two and three. We look forward to your support of this ministry and will be gearing up in early January to be ready for January 30.

BIRTHDAYS

September B-days

Day

- 1 Rosemary Sutter
- 3 Evelyn Chen
- 6 Lara Alvar
- 9 Lyle Boelter
- 10 Elaine Lauger
- 12 Ann Zegler
- 12 David Zegler
- 14 Shea Slaughter
- 15 Darlene Truver
- 16 Carmell Fadden
- 17 Colleen Doering
- 18 Samantha Box
- 21 Patty Lewis
- 26 Ian Smart
- 27 Shawn Morrow



IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep the following members of St. Peter's in our prayers:

Jo, Elton

Our homebound members and those in care facilities:

Keith, Carolyn, Diane B., Carmell, Dante, Diane S.

Our members with on-going concerns:

Ann Z., Babette, Carlos, Lora, Lily, Patty L.

Our military, police, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare providers, and all who work for peace.

To request prayer, please contact the church office or write your request on a Welcome Card on Sunday. Names of loved ones require regular updates to remain on our prayer list. Thank you.



ST. PETER'S BY THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
1371 SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92107-3845

EVENTS OF INTEREST

September 12 Sunset Cliffs Auto Show and Pancake Breakfast
 September 13 God's Work. Our Hands.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sundays	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service, live-streamed
	7:00 p.m.	Al-Anon Meeting "Courage to Change"
Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.	Church Mice/Christian Service
	4:00 p.m.	AA Meeting "Sobriety Seekers"
First Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Prayer Shawl Ministry
Third Tuesday	12:30 p.m.	Women's Book Study (note new time)
Thursdays	5:30 p.m.	NA Meeting "Eleven-11"
First Friday	8:30 a.m.	St. Peter's serves at TACO
Second Friday	6:00 p.m.	Hand & Foot Card Game
Second Saturday		Biking Group (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)