

# The Net

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**St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church**

Church Phone: 619-224-2894

Preschool Phone: 619-224-1689

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

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Dear Friends,

It may feel as though our sanctuary remodel project is somewhat dormant. Rest assured, under the surface, so much is happening and it won't be long until, like a seed in spring, the project comes to a new point of blossoming and blooming, at which point the congregation will be called upon to give more input and to continue the dreaming and the planning together.

Sometimes, **I struggle with the idea of spending a whole bunch of money on a remodeled sanctuary.** I pray, "Really, God?! Is this the work you have for us to do? Conflicts erupt on the world's main stage, unhoused folks come knocking on our door, we know that Loaves and Fishes food pantry has more clients than ever and less and less available funding to work with and God, you want us to build a new worship space, when we already have a roof over our heads?"

I keep hearing in my prayers, "Yes, this is the work I have for you right now." **Because we cannot afford in times like these, in a world like ours to hide our light under a bushel basket. What the church houses is too valuable and too needed to not steward it with the utmost care.**

St. Peter's high-trafficked location puts God's love directly in the pathway of thousands of people *every single day*. Let's not waste our place on this earth! Let's build something that draws people in, that speaks of the gospel's vitality, that offers outwardly what we have found inside these walls. Let's make sure that when a visitor enters our doorways, they walk into a space that is warm in the winter and cool in the heat of summer, that is filled with beauty and light and clear access to the things they came to receive, where no one's experience is hampered by poor sound or lighting or visibility or accessibility. **What we have matters too much not to steward it with care.**

To be sure, you do not need an exquisite building to share the love of God. You do not need a building at all! But when you come to St.

## Worship Services

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

## Staff

Rev. Bekki Lohrmann, pastor

[pastor@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersbythesea.org)

Janine Morrow, Office Administrator

[office@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:office@stpetersbythesea.org)

Dori Hoadley, Preschool Director

[preschool@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:preschool@stpetersbythesea.org)

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

[Music.minister@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto: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;

Liz Medina; Fletcher Miller; Steve

Silva

Peter's, you are not met with mediocre love and care. No, when Interfaith Shelter guests arrive, we don't throw them our scraps, we give them our best. When a member of our church is at the end of their life, we wrap ourselves around them with the very best of what we have to offer. When people from our wider community come to us for a memorial service or a community event, we roll out the red carpet. Why would we not want to use our building to do the same that we do with our bodies, our time, our energy, and our love? **Why would we not want to put our lamp up high, lighting up the lives of the thousands of people who drive or walk by our church, gifting them with signs of God's love for them?**

So, the steering team has been working hard with the architects who gave us many concepts and from there, further develop two of those designs. We are **working with contractors** to get those initial concepts roughly priced so that we know what is within our capacity to accomplish. Once we have this data, we will have a more detailed update for the congregation and from there we will be able to move into the schematic design phase.

Also in the background, members of our steering team have been **interviewing capital campaign consultants** who will come alongside us to help us raise the necessary funds for this project. We will likely be bringing these folks onboard by May, which could mean that they begin working with us over the summer, with the hopes of launching a campaign in the fall or at the start of the new year.

Again, the steering team is myself, Scott Walls, Allison Crews, Colleen Doering, Jim Grutkowski, Richard Nielsen, and Darlene Morrow-Truver. If ever you have a thought or concern, please reach out to any one of us!

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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

Budget Recap	February Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$30,992.28	\$62,480.17	\$67,749.98	<\$5,269.81>
Expense	\$28,247.22	\$60,828.96	\$67,750.00	<\$6,921.04>
Difference	\$2,745.06	\$1,651.21		

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

February 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$106,203.83	\$253,167.92	\$359,371.75
Income	\$2,074.24	\$3,823.78	\$5,898.02
Expense	\$869.17	\$0	\$869.17
Ending Balance	\$107,408.90	\$256,991.70	\$364,400.60

## MUSIC NOTES

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Living as a member of the US Army band at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, provided a great many opportunities to be involved in a wide range of experiences. One of these was serving as the pianist/accompanist for the Jewish Cadet Choir. During my time at West Point, a Jewish Chapel was designed and built on the grounds of the academy, funded and propelled mostly by Jewish congregations in the greater New York area.

I got to travel and perform with this group of cadets, learning a whole new world of music and culture. As did my family. One of our favorite traditions was the Passover Seder each year, designed mostly to be an educational experience for non-Jews. Every step was explained, the symbolism of each item on the seder table, the songs, the prayers, the empty chair at the table, etc. The one song that we were able to sing was *Dayenu*. The chorus is ridiculously easy, and the verses are sung by soloists. (There was, however, one Rabbi we knew who used to call on just anyone to sing a verse and we lived in fear of being called on.)

*Dayenu* translates to “it would have been enough” or “it would have sufficed us.” It is a song of gratitude to God for the Exodus. There are 15 verses: five of Slavery (bringing us out of Egypt, exacting justice, etc.); five of miracles (splitting the sea, manna, etc.); five of being with God (giving the Torah, building the temple, etc.). For each action cited the refrain is *Dayenu*, “it would have sufficed us.” But the point of the song is that God has blessed us FAR beyond sufficiency.

I have seen Christian versions of this—spelling out the wonders of God’s love made manifest in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—and even on to sending the Holy Spirit to be with and comfort us forever. It is not possible to top God in the giving department!!

There is a pretty tame version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBCvLYC5HQc>

I also accompanied the Cadet Gospel Choir, but that is a story for another day...

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

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### The Holiest Days

#### Maundy Thursday

**April 2**

**7:00 p.m.** - The service of forgiveness, foot/hand-washing, and communion is held in the sanctuary as we gather to “do this in remembrance” of Him. The service concludes in silence with the stripping of the altar.

#### Good Friday

**April 3**

**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** - Good Friday Prayer Walk: beginning at St. Peter’s and going down Sunset Cliffs Blvd to pray with various faith communities from the Peninsula. A shuttle will drive you back to St. Peter’s. No sign up necessary. Come anytime within the allotted window.

**7:00 p.m.** - We will gather at St. Peter’s on Good Friday for a reading of The Passion According to John.



#### Easter Sunday

**April 5**

**7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.** - The Lord is risen indeed! We will gather at 7:00 a.m. for a sunrise service followed by a second service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary with brunch served between the services.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2026 St. Peter's by the Sea Directory now available

Copies of the 2026 Directory have been emailed to everyone in the directory. If you would like a paper version, copies are available in the Fellowship Hall or from the church office; one copy per household, please.

Please let the office know if we've neglected to include you or you have updated contact information.

Thank you

### VBS is Coming to St. Peter's!



## TACO NEWS

In 2025, Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) served 31,000 warm meals, filed 33,000 packages and pieces of mail, clothed 1,700 people, re-charged 11,000 cell phones and devices, helped recover 300+ ID Documents, and worked with more than 500 volunteers.

Wondering how you can help? Join St. Peter's by the Sea on the first Friday of the month to help serve a meal. We meet at 8:30 a.m. at First Lutheran Church, downtown, and are generally done by 10:30 a.m.

There are many other ways to volunteer at TACO, even for families with young kids! They need help preparing food, serving meals, filing mail, sorting clothing, setting up tables, stacking chairs, charging cell phones, and so much more!

Another way to help: DONATE. Your donations go a long way to put food on the table and clothes on peoples' backs and they are the only way TACO survives! Click [HERE](#) to donate a single time or on automated, recurring basis. Drop off clothing & foodstuff between 9am-1pm, Tuesday-Friday or by arrangement.

During the Lenten season, St. Peter's made a commitment that all Wednesday evening Lenten worship donations would be designated to TACO and we raised over \$1,500.

## ELCA NEWS

### ELCA Introduces Redesigned Website

The new [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org) has officially launched! This new website is the culmination of over a year of collaboration among the Churchwide Organization's Strategic Communications, IT and Innovation teams to create a tool that will help us continuously create more impact with our constituents. These teams engaged in extensive user research and incorporated modern, accessible and dynamic digital design to build a space where current and potential members, church leaders and visitors can understand and act on their faith.

This space includes the new [enhanced search](#), which incorporates pages on [ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org), the ELCA's resource library, congregation profile information, and *Living Lutheran* articles to provide a more comprehensive result. It also provides a guided exploration that curates answers based on individual needs.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Dear St. Peter's friends and families,

Whew! What a whirlwind March was! Our open house was an incredible event with about 50 families attending. We had wonderful St. Peter's by the Sea church volunteers serving up sundaes and the following partners in attendance: Anna Hinze Real Estate, Artist Outpost, Bluebird Play Space, Coastal Sage Garden, Coastal Scholars, Here We Go Loop-de-Loo kids resale shop, Kids on the Point OT, Ocean Beach Speech, Point Loma Children's Dentistry, Soccer Stars, Stronghold Kids, and The Dancehouse.

We also had the Scholastic book fair and the San Diego Blood Mobile! Thank you so much to all those that donated blood, we surpassed our goal of 20 donors with 22 donations which has the ability to save 66 lives!



Our zoo trip was a blast and we also had visits from the leprechauns and eye exams courtesy of the Elks Club!

Looking into April, we will be celebrating Spring, getting spring/graduation pictures and learning about farm animals!



Lastly, please join us on Monday April 27 at Classics Malt Shop. Enjoy a delicious meal and support our scholarship fund at the same time! Stop in any time of the day and mention St. Peter's Preschool!!

Kindly,

Dori Hoadley  
 Director, St. Peter's Preschool  
[preschool@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:preschool@stpetersbythesea.org)  
 619-224-1689

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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The Endowment Committee's next meeting will be held on April 22, 2026.

If you have matching fund requests for the Endowment Committee to consider, use one of the blue envelopes in the pews or send your check and information to the church office by Sunday, April 19.

The Endowment Committee offers educational scholarships. The application can be accessed on St. Peter's website, under Resources / Endowment. Please complete your application and return it to either the church office or the Endowment mailbox in the Meeting Room by April 15.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

APRIL 4: Easter Event – Saturday, April 4th  
Ages: Preschool through 5th Grade  
Time: 10:00 am to noon

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:45 a.m.



## IN MEMORIAM

We remember those who have recently died and keep their families in our prayers.

Christian sympathy is offered to the family and friends of Duane B.

Duane and his wife, Pat, transferred their membership to St. Peter's by the Sea in 2000 and became active and faithful members. Pat subsequently died in 2009 and on March 13, 2026, Duane joined her and their daughter, Kim in eternal rest. Duane is survived by their son, Rick, and their grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

### April is Loaves & Fishes Month at St. Peter's

April is St. Peter's by the Sea's month to collect non-perishable food items for our community food bank, Ocean Beach Emergency Food (aka Loaves & Fishes). Please be generous as the need is great.

At this time, Loaves & Fishes is in particular need of the following:

- Ready Made Soups, with pop tops preferred
- Travel size items: shampoo, soap, conditioner, etc.
- Peanut Butter

St. Peter's has committed to giving \$7,000 to OBEF this year—a goal which we surpassed last year thanks to your generosity! \$2,000 of our \$7,000 pledge will come from Endowment, which means that the rest will come from each of us! Consider giving a gift this April to sustain this valuable ministry to our neighbors in need!

Thank you!



**BIRTHDAYS**

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**April B-days****Day**

1	Valerie Lawson
1	Elizabeth C.
7	Hope Chen
8	Leah L.
8	Ellen Schmeding
9	Liz Medina
13	Cooper K.
14	Kevin Box
15	Anthony Harmon
16	Nathaniel S.
19	Brenda Johnson
23	Christy Gilsdorf
24	Charlie Dohrmann
28	Jon O'Brien
30	Solveig Fuentes

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Patty L., Jo, Charles

**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

**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**

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**EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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**Holy Week**

April 2	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
April 3	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service
April 4	10:00 a.m.	Children's Easter Event

**Easter Services/Brunch**

April 5	7:00 a.m.	Sunrise Service (Cliffside)
	8:30 a.m.	Brunch
	9:30 a.m.	Easter Service (Sanctuary)

**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	6:30 p.m.	Women's Book Study
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)