

# 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,

We've arrived at such an exciting moment! **We have beautiful, conceptual designs for a potential new sanctuary that will be shared with you all on August 16 after worship at the First Impressions Gathering!** The building steering team, the council, Scott Walls, and I have worked hard to get to this point, and for each of these dedicated people, I give thanks!

The First Impressions Gathering is a time where we will give you an update on what has happened since we finished our congregational discernment process last summer and show you a design that we hope will inspire and excite you. From there, the leadership will listen and each person will have the opportunity to give input and have facilitated conversations led at tables in the fellowship hall.

I want to prepare you for what you will see at the First Impressions Gathering. You asked us to deliver a design for a sanctuary *remodel*. However, when we sat down with our architect and shared our list of priorities (no more columns, natural light, accessibility, increased space, and a functioning HVAC system) our architects told us that it would cost more to try to fit those priorities into our existing building than to simply build a new sanctuary.

**What you will see at the First Impressions Gathering is a rendering of a completely new sanctuary.** It's important that you know this going in to the conversation because it would be perfectly normal for you have feelings of grief, shock, or confusion at this idea.

I want to assure you that this change from what we expected to build is not because we weren't listening. It's precisely because we *were* listening that we come back to you with such a big, bold vision. **What you will see incorporates all of the things you desired for a new sanctuary!**

The First Impressions Gathering will kick off our "pre-campaign" work, which is a time to really test whether or not you all feel God calling us

## 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

to do something as daring as building a new sanctuary. During this time there will be one-on-one interviews with various leaders in the congregation, a survey will go out and you all will be asked to give your input about this new space and how you are feeling as far as a commitment to turning this vision into a reality. After the pre-campaign, we will move into the actual capital campaign which we anticipate will take place throughout October and November, concluding before Thanksgiving.

I invite you into a time to connect with God, to make space every day to open your hands, your minds, and your hearts and to assume a position of openness to God's voice and God's presence. **To discern how to move forward together and with love, our call is to listen for God's spirit in the midst of this.** Think back—at other points in your life, what did it feel like to know you were on the right path? To know you were being nudged by the Holy Spirit? Think back to other times when you *thought* you were following God's spirit and it turned out to be the spirit of fear or anxiety or ego? It's important to know what these things feel like so that you can know what it is you are experiencing as we enter this group process of listening for God to direct and guide us.

**Again, thank you** to Scott Walls, Darlene Morrow-Truver, Richard Nielsen, Colleen Doering, Allison Crews, and Jim Grutkowski, and to our council members for their faithful tending to this project thus far. I look forward to August 16 and taking these next steps together!

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on July 15, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

| Budget Recap | June Actual  | Year-to-Date Actual | Year-to-Date Budget | Difference Actual:Budget |
|--------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Income       | \$31,779.35  | \$226,088.18        | \$203,249.94        | \$22,838.24              |
| Expense      | \$33,325.35  | \$186,611.03        | \$203,250.00        | <\$16,638.97<br>>        |
| Difference   | <\$1,546.00> | \$39,477.15         |                     |                          |

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

| June 2026         | General Maint. & Repairs | Sanctuary Remodel | Total Building Funds |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$111,193.43             | \$261,502.02      | \$372,695.45         |
| Income            | \$588.63                 | \$0               | \$588.63             |
| Expense           | \$1,860.95               | \$5,335.00        | \$7,195.95           |
| Ending Balance    | \$109,921.11             | \$256,167.02      | \$366,088.13         |

## MUSIC NOTES

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Recently Facebook brought to my attention Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Although she has been around a long time, she is new to me. She and her husband, who is also a Presbyterian pastor, have just retired from active ministry—if such a thing is possible for church leaders.

Carolyn has been a pastor in rural, small town, suburban, and city churches; she has served as a hospice chaplain, a hospital chaplain, and a school bus aide helping children with special needs. She has also written over 550 hymns.

Her hymns have been sung by congregations throughout the United States and around the world, from cathedrals to small town churches, as well as national church and international ecumenical meetings. Habitat for Humanity has used a hymn of hers, as has The Humane Society. She freely gives permission for her work to be used without royalties or legalities, which in this day of streaming services is incredibly generous.

Many of Carolyn's hymns address the issues that confront us in our own time: uncertainty, fear, gun violence, racism, even smoke from wildfires. She writes very relatable and singable lyrics for familiar hymns. She believes in the power of hymns: "When we speak words, maybe it's more of an intellectual thing. I think when we sing, we sing from our hearts. It engages a different part of who we are." I think she is right.

If you would like to know more about her and her hymns you can visit her website:

<https://www.carolynshymns.com/index.html> or her Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarolynWinfreyGillette>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

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**Middle School Youth Gathering 2026: Save the Date(s)**  
**November 6-8, 2026**

This year's Middle School Youth Gathering returns to Great Wolf Lodge in Anaheim/Garden Grove for an exploration of the theme "Choose Your Own Faith Adventure." Block out the dates now and stay tuned to [the MSYG page](#) on the Pacifica Synod website for more details as they become available!



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Vacation Bible School

Thank you, St. Peter's, for a successful VBS this year! We had 26 campers, 4 teen helpers, 3 camp counselors, and many volunteers each day from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Our campers sang songs, watched skits to learn the Gospels, listened to Bible stories, looked at Colleen's beautiful art to match each day's theme, and made new friends. It was great hearing the noise, laughter, and fun happening with all our campers. Even the shy ones came out of their shells and were dancing and singing!

Thank you again to the volunteers who helped sign the children in each day, prepared the snacks, cleaned up, helped with the crafts, provided meals for our counselors, and checked in to make sure all was well.



## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



### Lutherans for Love at the Pride Parade

St. Peter's was one of 9 ELCA Lutheran churches participating in this year's *Lutherans for Love* entry in the annual Pride Parade. From float building & decorating, to marching in the parade, there was a wonderful turn-out!

## THANK YOUs

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St. Peter's by the Sea,

We are beyond grateful for your generous hospitality and willingness to host us for the week! The church itself is very beautiful and clearly loved by many.

Thank you for giving us your church so we had a place to call home for the week!

With gratitude,  
Light of Christ Church Youth

We/I am so grateful for all that you did for our group – we had a life-changing week!

Kirsten (Youth Director)

## ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

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Dear friends at St. Peter's by the Sea,

Please excuse our delay in thanking you for these generous donations:

\$336.75 (March)  
\$148.95 (April)  
\$5,135.05 (May)

We are so grateful for your enthusiastic support, which helps us serve the food insecure families and individuals of Ocean Beach and Point Loma.

May God bless all of the parishioners who make these donations possible.

Sincerely,

Pat Katka, Board Member  
OBEF (Loaves & Fishes)

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Hello St. Peter's Families and friends,

Thank you so much to all who attended our fundraiser at The Loma Club. Good food, mini golf, and lots of fun were had! They will be sending 15% of their profits from the evening's event to St. Peter's Preschool Scholarship Fund.



We are now in a VERY bittersweet time of year. August 4, we will be closing out the 2025-2026 school year and saying goodbye to those kiddos headed off to UTK, Kinder, and 1st grade, and August 10 we will begin our 2026-2027 school year welcoming new families and transitioning to new teachers.

We are so excited to start the new year with a full student body, a wonderful staff and continuing to create a safe, loving, learning environment for them all. We will be having our first open house of the year on August 21 @6:00 p.m. This will be an adult-only event, where families can get to know each other and start to build a community that will support their children through early child development and beyond!

This month we will be learning about making new friends and keeping old friends, our emotions, self-care, and shapes and colors. All this while learning about our new friends, new routines, boundaries and expectations, and having fun and loving school!

Wishing you all a wonderful August full of love and joy,

Kindly,

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**First Impressions Gathering**

August 16 following the worship service.

**Save the Date:**

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday September 13



## BIRTHDAYS

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### August B-days

#### Day

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Anderson Harmon |
| 7  | Sam O'Brien     |
| 8  | Marcos Perez    |
| 12 | Andi Blackwell  |
| 13 | Anne Rosser     |
| 16 | Hannah DeMers   |



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Jo

**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**

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## EVENTS OF INTEREST

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|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| August 9  | Blessing of the Backpacks   |
| August 16 | First Impressions Gathering |

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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|                 |            |                                                         |
|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 (resumes in September with 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)                   |