

# 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 officially launched our work of preparing to remodel our Sanctuary! Right now we are in a time of **congregational input**, between now and the end of June. This is the time when we want to hear from as many members and participants at St. Peter's as possible so that the sanctuary that we end up with is one that will equip *this* congregation for ministry well into the future!

Last Sunday we had our first Congregational Forum and we talked about Core Values. **Core Values are the ideas that guide our behavior and decisions over time.** Ideally we would be able to name 2-3 core values at St. Peter's that we would be able to pass on to an architect and say, "Here's what we care most about! Make sure that the sanctuary reflects these things!"

To get at our church's value we played a little game. We pretended that we were being tasked with replicating St. Peter's by the Sea on Mars and were asked to choose up to five people that we would want to send who would bring the St. Peter's DNA to the new Martian congregation. Here are some of the words that were used to describe the heart, soul and DNA of St. Peter's:

St. Peter's values **WELCOME** but as we sat with this word we realized that it's not just WELCOME that we get here but **CONNECTION** and **EMBRACE**. The welcome that we receive here is not just a door kicked open in our general direction but people who remember our names when we come the second time, folks who take us by the hand to meet new people, folks who show up when we need each other the most, who wrap themselves around us with the **LOVE** of God.

St. Peter's values **SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP**. We value being centered on the **WORD**, but not some old, dry, worn-out word, but the **LIVING WORD** that comes to us enlivened and enlightened in preaching, worship, **MUSIC** and study.

St. Peter's values **ORGANIZATION** and the length and vibrancy of our **HISTORY**. My hunch is that we don't actually value organization and history for their own sake but because when we come to St. Peter's we experience a place that is **WELL-TENDED**—a place that is not

## 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

## 2025 Council

Pat Hendrickson, President

Ellen Schmeding, Vice-President

Allison Crews, Secretary

Richard Nielsen, Treasurer

Sandra Boelter; Greg Lommen; Liz

Medina; Jacquelyn Romero; Betty

Wells

erratic but that we can **TRUST**, that has become a **REFUGE** and **CALM** in the midst of the storm. St. Peter's has proven to be a place that instills **FAITH** in us.

Other words that arose in our conversation were **SERVICE, DEDICATION, HOSPITALITY, WORKER BEES, OUTREACH, AND "ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GET IT DONE" ATTITUDE.**

If you have more to say or more stories to tell that help us to uncover the heart of our values as a congregation, please email me, call me, or find a time to come and talk with me or any member of the Building Steering Team (Scott Walls, Darlene Truver, Colleen Doering, Jim Grutkowski, and Richard Nielsen). The Steering Team and Council will take the feedback we received and work them into 2-3 well-stated Core Values that we can use moving forward in all of our decisions regarding how to best remodel our space of the Glory of God and in service to God's church and our community for generations to come.

**Join us for our next Congregational Forum on April 13 to talk about WORSHIP!**

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on March 12, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	February Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$37,258.25	\$69,252.07	\$66,058.34	\$3,193.73
Expense	\$31,837.88	\$62,862.49	\$66,058.36	<\$3,195.87>
Difference	\$5,420.37	\$6,389.58		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

	February 2025
Beginning Balance	\$134,195.78
Income	\$4,788.19
Expense	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$138,983.97

## THANK YOUs

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The church is beautiful and was a perfect location for our spiritual retreat.

Thank you for letting us use it.

United Women in Faith  
First United Methodist Church of Escondido

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Membership Directory Updates

Please make the following updates to your current Membership Directory:

Fernando & Jacquelyn Romero  
New address:  
Patty Lewis  
New cell number:

NOTE: contact the church office for the updates.

## MUSIC NOTES

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For many of us, music is so much a part of worship that the two almost seem inseparable. The Bible doesn't specify the styles or types of music, leaving room for diversity and creativity in worship. The Old Testament contains numerous references to music in worship, including the use of instruments like harps, lyres, and cymbals, as well as singing and dancing. The New Testament doesn't name particular instruments, but it does emphasize the importance of singing and making music to the Lord in your heart.

Singing is a good thing, but it's not a necessary thing for Christian worship: its importance for Christians doesn't lie in the music, but in the Word of Christ. Throughout history, and even in many places around the world today, Christians worship without music. When worshipping secretly in a place where Christians are persecuted, singing would just draw dangerous attention. Additionally, there are sects of Christianity that do not use singing in their worship services. There are also sects that do sing, but do not allow instruments other than human voices.

Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Singing is good, because it's a way of letting the Word of Christ dwell in us and building one another up in God's Word. I don't know about you, but it also helps me to stay focused and awake. I'm not sure I could spend an hour or more in worship without music. Thank God for music!

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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**It is tax season but with planning, the benefits of giving can last for years.**

Lisa Higginbotham, the ELCA regional Gift Planner, has some good suggestions on how to be efficient in giving, especially in tax-advantaged ways of giving. These strategies can maximize your impact while offering meaningful financial benefits.

### TAX-SAVVY WAYS TO GIVE

Gifts of non-cash assets and other tax-advantaged giving strategies can maximize your impact on the ELCA ministries you care about while offering significant financial benefits. Here are some options to discuss with your CPA or other allied professionals in the coming weeks:

- **Appreciated Securities:** Donating appreciated securities, especially with markets at an all-time high, can help you avoid capital gains taxes, provide an income tax deduction, and help with rebalancing your investment portfolio – advantages that, in combination, a cash donation cannot offer. Use our [calculator](#) to explore your potential savings.
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):** If you're 70½ or older, you can give directly from your traditional IRA to charity, reducing your taxable income while supporting ministry or other charities. For 2025 the maximum that can be given has been raised to \$108,000. A QCD gift may also help reduce your Medicare premiums by reducing taxable income. Also note that for 2025 the age that you **must** start taking an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) is now 73. RMD in some cases will increase your taxable income, but if you make a QCD you can avoid those additional taxes in certain situations.
- **Donor Advised Funds (DAFs):** Simplify your giving by contributing to a DAF. You'll receive an immediate tax deduction while supporting multiple organizations over time. A DAF is also an excellent way to involve family members in your philanthropy and express shared values. Donor Advised Giving is also very simple, and provides a way to get more tax benefit than the standard deduction for larger gifts that can be bunched in one year to the DAF, but then distributed to charities over the following several or many years.
- **Real Estate:** Donating property can be a highly impactful way to give, often eliminating capital gains taxes and providing a substantial charitable deduction.
- **Beneficiary Designations:** Naming an ELCA ministry as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement plan is an easy way to leave a lasting legacy.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs):** These trusts allow you to receive income during your lifetime while leaving the remainder to the ministries you love.

From your St. Peter's Stewardship Committee and  
 Lisa M. Higginbotham, ELCA Regional Gift Planner  
[Lisa.Higginbotham@elca.org](mailto:Lisa.Higginbotham@elca.org)

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. Peter's Preschool friends and families,

Happy Spring! We are really enjoying this change of season with more sun and longer days. We are back to spending our afternoons outdoors and taking advantage of our beautiful location.



Thank you so much to all who attended our Classics Malt Shop fundraiser. It is always a treat to enjoy their awesome burgers and hang out with our favorite friends! Also a huge thank you to @cans4books.org for bringing "Reef the Whale" and collecting 100lbs of cans. They used the proceeds to purchase \$208 worth of books from our book fair to donate to the preschool! Please continue to collect cans as "Reef the Whale" will return for Earth Day! Lastly thank you to Sandie and her crew for serving ice cream at our rainy open house and collecting \$150 for our scholarship fund.



This month we are looking forward to alphabet review, celebrating Easter, and learning about insects, flowers, and farm animals.

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

## PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

**The annual Pacifica Synod Assembly** will be held May 16-17, 2025 at Gloria Dei Lutheran church in Dana Point with the theme "In a New Boat."

**The triennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly** will be held July 28 – August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, AZ.

**Lutheran Retreats, Camps, & Conferences is hiring for summer camp!**

"At camp, we believe that outdoor ministry is invaluable for youth. Not only that, but we believe that the jobs camp provides are just as important for young adults looking to gain professional development and spiritual connection. Working at camp builds confidence, leadership skills, communication skills, teamwork, and more."

For more information, visit:  
[www.lrcchome.com/summer-employment](http://www.lrcchome.com/summer-employment)

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

April 19 Easter Event - Day before EASTER

Ages: Infants through 5th Grade

Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon

Activities: Story, Craft, Decorating Easter Eggs, Decorating Sugar Cookies, Easter Egg Hunt

April 20 SUNDAY SCHOOL – CHRIST IS RISEN!

April 22 Education Committee Meeting via Zoom (Check with Sandie Boelter for link and join us.)

It was a great pleasure to help the Preschool with their Open House on March 14. We served ice cream with toppings for all who attended the event. Thanks go to Grace Hesse, Greg Lommen, and Lyle Boelter for their help with the scooping.



Our next event is the day before Easter, April 19. Lots of fun activities for the children and adults combined to celebrate the Easter season.

As Always in Christ,  
Sandie Boelter



**PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**March Council Highlights:**

-Approved Space Use Guidelines:

The focus of the guidelines is the use of our large community room. Priority will be given to church groups and other groups whose missions are compatible with St. Peter's. When available, our space may be used by local business/community groups. Fees and/or suggested donations were established. Outside use of our space will be under the supervision of the Hospitality Coordinator.

-Received a report from the Sanctuary Remodel Steering Committee:

The report outlined a timeline and activities as we move forward on the sanctuary remodel. No Council action was required.

*Sanctuary Remodel*  
**OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONGREGATIONAL INPUT**

All Sundry Forums will take place after worship

SUN APRIL 6	SMALL GROUP FORUM FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTH
SUN APRIL 13	CONGREGATIONAL FORUM: WHAT DOES OUR WORSHIP SPACE NEED TO DO?
WED MAY 7	SMALL GROUP FORUM ON ZOOM FOR WORSHIP LEADERS AND DEACONS, 7 PM
SAT MAY 10	CHURCH CRAWL TO 3 EXEMPLARY WORSHIP SPACES, TIME TBD
SUN MAY 18	SMALL GROUP FORUM FOR CHOIR
WED MAY 21	SMALL GROUP FORUM FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE SPACE DURING THE WEEK, 1 PM
SUN JUNE 22	FINAL CONGREGATIONAL FORUM: RECAP OF WHAT WE'VE HEARD
	Congregational input will be considered through June 22

Building Steering Team: Scott Walls & Pr. Bekki, co-chairs; Colleen Doering, Jim Grutkowski, Richard Nielsen, Darlene Truver

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Endowment Committee's next meeting will be held on April 23, 2025.

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 20.

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 Easter Sunday.



**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

Thank you!

**Save the Date:** St. Peter's is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Loaves & Fishes fundraising dinner & silent auction on May 31. The event's theme is "Waves of Generosity." Tickets will be \$40; more information to come. We look forward to a fun evening and a successful event benefiting our community.

**TACO NEWS**

TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Organization) is once again hosting their Empty Bowls event on May 10, 2025, at La Jolla United Methodist Church, and they need your help!

*What is Empty Bowls?*

*The Empty Bowls project is a grassroots, art-based fundraising event in which local artists create and donate bowls. The bowls are then used to serve a meal, and the proceeds go to food-related charities to combat hunger.*

Would you be interested in volunteering for this event? In addition to potters, ceramic artists & wood-turners to create bowls, they need help picking up soups before and on the event day.

If you or your group of potters, ceramic artists, or woodturners would like to donate bowls, please contact [events@tacosd.org](mailto:events@tacosd.org) or call 619-235-9445 x-1004.

If you are interested in volunteering to help picking up soups before and on the event day, please email [volunteer@tacosd.org](mailto:volunteer@tacosd.org)

## LENT AND EASTER

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We continue the somber season of Lent with two more Lenten Wednesday Evenings on April 2 & 9.

5:00 p.m. – Liturgy & Life Discussion

6:00 p.m. – Lenten Soup Supper

7:00 p.m. – Prayer Around the Cross Lenten Worship

*(It's helpful for planning purposes if you can sign-up to bring soup, salad, or bread for Wednesday Soup Supper.)*

Please keep an eye on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board for the Easter Brunch sign-up list, and begin considering what breakfast items you would like to add this joyful meal when our church family and friends gather together to celebrate Easter.

Our Celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday is just around the corner!

### The Holiest Days

#### Maundy Thursday

**April 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>**

**12:00-2:00 p.m.** – The Peninsula Faith Leaders invite you on a pilgrimage through Ocean Beach’s historic Church Row on Good Friday, with stations at churches and ministry locations throughout the neighborhood. Each stop will be hosted by a local church and reflect a portion of the story of Jesus as he journeys to the cross. Groups will depart from St. Peter's every 15 minutes between 12:00-2:00 pm. Join anytime that is convenient.

Participating ministries include; Resurrection Ocean Beach, All Souls’ Episcopal Church, Sacred Heart of Ocean Beach, Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, Submerge Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and St. Peter’s by the Sea Lutheran Church (the first stop).

Please note that the walk will be approximately 1 mile and is mostly flat. Park at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church; transportation from Resurrection OB back to St. Peter’s will be available. This event is open to everyone and there is no need to register in advance.

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 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.

#### Easter Flower Supply

Once again, the sanctuary will be decorated with lilies and the floral cross will be in full bloom. If you would like to dedicate flowers in thanksgiving, in memory, or in honor of a loved one, please send the information below to the office with your check made payable to St. Peter’s (you may also put it in the Sunday offering plate). Names of those so honored/remembered will be included in the Easter bulletin. **Deadline is Monday, April 14.**

Please accept my donation for Easter Flower Supply:

*In Memory of ...; or In Honor of ...; or With Thanksgiving for ...*

(Suggested donation = \$20.00)



## BIRTHDAYS

### April B-days

#### Day

1	Valerie Lawson
8	Leah Lawson
8	Ellen Schmeding
9	Liz Medina
14	Kevin Box
16	Nathaniel Silva
19	Brenda Johnson
23	Christy Gilsdorf
28	Jon O'Brien
30	Solveig Fuentes



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Lora, Carlos, Darlene M-T, Elaine, Darlene T

**Our homebound members and those in care facilities:**

Keith, Janet, Jane H., Carolyn, Dante, Diane B., Carmell

**Our members with on-going concerns:**

Ann Z., Babette, 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.



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

### **Spring Forward Safely**

*Daylight Saving Time*, which began March 9th this year, is usually associated with the start of spring. Spring time can also be a good time to review your spring safety checklist. These are some safety items to consider.

### **Smoke Alarms**

According to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom and in the common areas on each floor of a home. Mount them at least 10 feet from the stove to reduce false alarms, less than 12 inches from the ceiling and away from windows, doors, and ducts. Test your smoke alarms *every month* and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a "chirping" sound, replace the battery immediately.

### **Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. The safety tips for CO detectors mirror those of smoke alarms: change the batteries, test them, and interconnect them, if possible. Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove, and furnace) are free and clear of debris.

### **Family Emergency Plan:**

The National Safety Council recommends every family have an emergency plan in place in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. Have a home and car emergency kit, make sure your first aid kit is updated. The Federal Emergency Management Agency says an emergency kit should include one gallon of water per day for each person, at least a three-day supply of food, flashlight and batteries, first aid kit, filter mask, plastic sheeting and duct tape, and medicines. Review a plan with family members to outline how you will all contact one another and where to meet if it's safe to go outside.

### **Child Safety**

Ensure your child's safety during spring: prioritize sun protection, be aware of weather changes (like heavy rain and thunderstorms), and supervise children during outdoor activities like swimming or playing near water. Always know where they are! Be aware of any allergies they may have, especially to pollen or insect stings.

### **Get Rid of Unwanted Medicines:**

Take unwanted or expired medicines to a prescription drop box or take-back event near you.

### **Getting the Urge to Clean?**

With the warm weather comes a desire to shine and polish your home. But when warning labels are ignored or chemicals fall into the wrong hands, disaster can occur. Learn what you can do to keep your family safe around poisons in the home.

Keep you and your family safe at all times, and seriously consider these few steps!

**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 17 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
- April 18 12-2:00 p.m. Good Friday Stations of the Cross  
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service
- April 19 10:00 a.m. Children's Easter Event

**Easter Services/Brunch**

- April 20 7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service
- 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
Third Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Women's Spiritual 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 (rescheduled for Feb. 7 this month)
Second Saturday		Bicycling Group (time & location varies)
Third Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)