

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

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

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

Hello beloveds at St. Peter's,

Instead of highlighting what's coming up or reflecting on the events of the past month I want to write about **preaching**.

Because preaching is weird.

I mean really, what is a sermon? It's not exactly a lecture. It's not exactly entertainment (although I have dabbled in improv comedy...). It's not a dialogue, or a straight-up speech, or a performance. It's this strange thing that happens for 10-12 minutes every Sunday and it is in a category all of its own.

So here's how I understand preaching: Preaching is what happens when God's life, your life, my life, and the life of the world get jumbled up and then spit out. The way that the Lutheran Church understands preaching is that *it is primarily an encounter*.

Preaching is an encounter with the living Word of God, which is Jesus.

I mean, there's a lot of room for error. (After all, it's a human being doing the work of preaching.) So I'm not saying that *my word is God's* word. But I'm saying that if the Holy Spirit is at work, then when we come to the sermon, *despite* my human inclination for error, we will encounter God speaking to us today.

So, you might learn some things, but learning isn't really the goal. You might be entertained, but that's not the goal either. You might be bored and that certainly isn't the goal! The goal is to have an encounter with God and to walk away different—transformed.

So when you come to worship on Sundays and you sit there while I preach, *listen*.

Listen for the ways that God is trying to have an encounter with you.

Notice where the sermon takes *you*—to what associations or memories or relationships? If the Spirit is at work, the words of the sermon will likely move you to the place in your world where the gospel is beginning to do its work on you.

If something I say challenges you, listen to that part of you that's feeling challenged. Or heaven forbid, you feel offended by something I say, listen to that part of you that is feeling offended. And then come talk to me. God might be trying to do something there in all of that! If something I say hits you like a ton of bricks, listen! If you come away with more questions than answers, listen to those questions.

We have an active, engaged God who is always trying to have an encounter with us. In church, and out of church. In sermons, but also at work, at home, at the bar, you name it! Listen!

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

CONGREGATION DEACON NEWS

It's summer and vacations are in order. Not only did Pastor enjoy well deserved time off with her family and friends, our members have been traveling as well. On the flip side of that we've had the opportunity to meet and enjoy the company of various visitors who are escaping the heat to our beautiful cliff's community.

During Pastor's absence, we enjoyed various supply pastors, including Pastor Jim Friedrich and Pastor Emeritus Karen Marohn. The church and Pastor allowed myself and fellow Deacon Steve Silva to conduct a mini-Deacon Sunday Service. We appreciate all of the support and encouragement from the members.

As the summer continues before school reopens, we will begin to look ahead at the Church Calendar, begin looking at Service Opportunities, and begin early planning for Advent and Christmas Season.

In the meantime, we hope that you and your families remain cool and enjoy the cooler climate of San Diego.

Peace,
Greg Lommen

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council took the month of July off. June & July treasurer's reports will be available next month. The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 14.

MUSIC NOTES

Well, it's official: I am old. I was in the grocery store one day this week and I absolutely hated the music they were playing. It was too new, too harsh, too metallic, too... I don't know, just TOO! They say you are officially old when the grocery store (or elevator) plays your kind of music, and I guess it must be true. Pretty weird to be jamming to music while picking out which avocados will last the longest, but I am definitely able to spend more time pondering it when the music is comfortable to me. When it is not, I tend to grab quickly to get away and then deal with regret when I get home.

There is a lot of science behind the choice of music to play in retail settings. Stores have to factor in the age group that is likely to be shopping there not just in general, but in hour segments. Maybe the older folks come in early in the day and the younger ones in the hours right after the work day ends. The retailers want you to feel good in their store—you will likely stay longer and spend more, and they want you to have an overall good feeling about the store so that you will be more likely to come back.

The power of music is very strong and often very insidious. We can be manipulated by music and not even be aware of it.

For many churches, music is the guide through the worship experience. Usually, hymns are chosen based on the scripture lessons of the day, but also arranged in an order that leads us from coming in the door to going out the door. Music helps us to settle our souls to be able to focus on what is happening right then, lead us into worship, and send us out encouraged and uplifted to face the week ahead. And we definitely know what kind of music we like and what kind of musical experience we want, don't we? Does that mean we are old? (Asking for a friend...)

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

TACO NEWS

TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Organization) is located in downtown San Diego. Each month, on the First Friday, St. Peter's helps to serve a meal and you are invited to join us! Contact St. Peter's church office and we'll give you all the info you need and put you on the reminder email list. You don't have to serve every month.

TACO serves hot meals on Mondays and Fridays, and "to go" lunches on Wednesdays. They also provide medical, dental, and legal clinics throughout the month.

Every month, TACO ...

- Serves 2400 meals
- Files 3200 pieces of mail
- Hands out 1600 items of clothing
- Re-charges 1200 cell phones
- Helps recover over 80 social security cards, IDs, and birth certificates
- Provides more than 100 showers

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. Peter's Preschool families and friends,

August already, Wow! Time flies. As we end the 2024-2025 school year on August 5, I am looking back with a grateful heart. We had two teachers move into different fields and it is always bittersweet to say goodbye; we had aides that were ready to step into the teaching position; and were able to hire two new incredible aides in Miss Veronica and Miss Jessica. In the fall the staff will be as follows:



PreK: Miss Josey - Sea Star room

PreK prep: Miss Leslie - Flying Fish room

3-year-olds: Miss Alanna - Otter Room

3/2-year-olds: Miss Heather - Dolphin room

2-year-olds: Miss Jess - Sea Lion Room

Our aides will be Miss Jessica & Miss Veronica

Miss Bekah will be returning to school so she will be here as an aide/science teacher.

We will be forming a science (STEM) program where all of the kiddos will receive dedicated science (STEM) time once a week.

So, as we send kiddos off to UTK and kindergarten with a mixture of pride and heartache, we are looking forward to August 11 when the 2025-2026 school year begins with new teachers, new ideas, and the passion to give our children the best preschool experience possible.

Cheers,

Dori Hoadley
 Director, St. Peter's Preschool
preschool@stpetersbythesea.org
 619-224-1689

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sunday School will resume September 14 and teachers are needed. If you can give one Sunday a month, it would be greatly appreciated. Some of our current teachers have been teaching since their (now adult) children were in Sunday School and while they still LOVE it, we need more teachers.

To learn more, speak with Sandie Boelter or Ellen Schmeding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Night Out w/ Neighborhood Watch

On Tuesday, August 5, you're invited to celebrate National Night Out in the main parking lot of St. Peter's by the Sea. Our local Neighborhood Watch group will be serving treats and our Community Police Officer will be here to meet, greet, and answer your questions.



ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

To: St. Peter's by the Sea,

The cyclists and support team of FCBA (Fuller Center Bike Adventure) West Coast 2025 wish to express our thanks and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to us during our visit.

We cannot execute our mission to end poverty housing without the generous actions of church communities like yours.

Please continue to hold us up in prayer as we complete our individual journeys home and know that we render yours in Christ Jesus.

The FCBA "Seattle to San Diego" bicycle riders

Dear Pastor Bekki and Congregation,

Thank you so much for the gift of 500 pairs of men's undershorts [from the June "skivvy" drive]; your longstanding support is deeply appreciated.

May God bless all of you who have donated to our ministry through the years.

Sincerely,

Pat Katka
Loaves & Fishes Board Member

ELCA NEWS

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly is being held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz., convening under the theme “For the Life of the Church.”

Early in her tenure, current Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

We are church.
 We are Lutheran.
 We are church together.
 We are church for the sake of the world.

We are church for the sake of the world—for the abundant life promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God’s grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members (approximately 800) representing every member synod will:

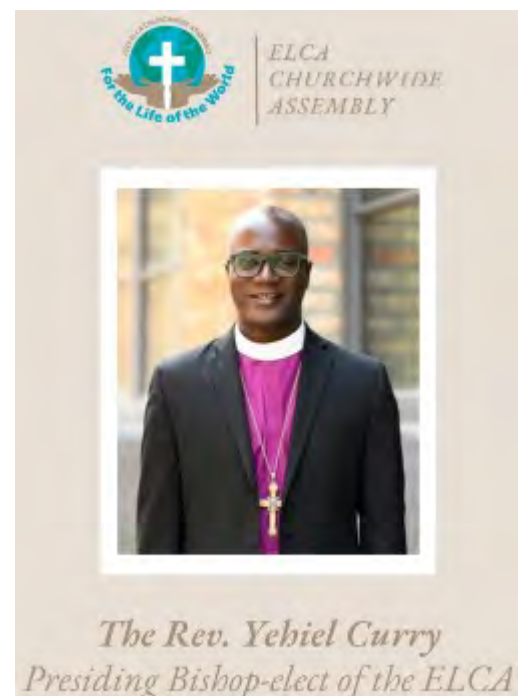
- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members, and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Elect a new Presiding Bishop. The current Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, was first elected in 2013 and re-elected in 2019 for a second six-year term. Bishop Eaton will retire at the end of her current term
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Please keep all who are attending in your prayers as they conduct the business of the greater church and representing all of us.

NEW BISHOP ELECTED

We are pleased to announce the election of the Rev. Yehiel Curry as presiding bishop of the ELCA! Bishop-elect Curry was elected on the fifth ballot with 70.34% of the vote.

Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain Bishop-elect Curry, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people. Grant that together we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Day

1	Anderson Harmon
7	Sam O'Brien
8	Marcos Perez
13	Anne Rosser
16	Hannah DeMers
20	Ethan Gilsdorf



IN OUR PRAYERS

We keep the following members of St. Peter's in our prayers:
Darlene M-T, Joan, Patty L.

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, Carlos, Lora

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

August 5	Nat'l Night Out
August 11	New School Year Begins

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sundays	9:10 a.m.	Summer Drop-In 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 (resumes in September)
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		Bicycling Group (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)