

# The Net

December 2025—January 2026 · Volume 22 · Number 11 ·  
[www.stpetersbythesea.org](http://www.stpetersbythesea.org)

**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 breezed through Halloween and past Thanksgiving, eaten pies together and passed out candy and goodies together to neighborhood kids at Trunk or Treat. We've partnered with other churches in San Diego to host Wine into Water, where we raised over \$5,000 to install a water filtration system in rural Pakistan. We've surpassed our financial goal of giving \$5,000 to Loaves and Fishes food pantry and gone and raised more like \$8,000 in a time when food insecurity is at an all-time high. We had a successful fall stewardship program and the council passed a budget for the congregation's review for 2026. The congregation continues to be responsive to unhoused neighbors who stop by on Sundays and throughout the week. We completed a 9-week Bible Study which was a darn delight and our deacons continue to visit homebound folks with warmth and love. **Beneath all of that I want to let you know that our sanctuary remodel work is moving forward.**

Here's what has happened to date:

- Scott Walls and I met with our Architects, John and Charity, along with intern Tatiana for an **initial walk through of our space** where together we showed them our property so that we could begin to dream together.
- After everyone had time to percolate, we came back together to further collaborate on the possibilities for our new space.
- These initial possibilities were presented by Scott and me to the **building steering team** who made recommendations on which ideas were favorable and which were not
- The **council is brought up to date** each month on any and all activity of the building steering team
- With the help of Darlene Truver, **we applied for a grant for up to \$500,000** through the John C. Lasko Foundation, which we can use for new construction on a church sanctuary. The grant is not applicable for other parts of our facility and it is only applicable if we undergo the creation of new construction (which could entail additions and bump outs or a whole new

## 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

sanctuary). We should hear by early December if we were approved to move on to phase 2 of this application process.

Our next steps are to meet again with the architects to firm up the initial concepts that we are hoping to further develop. From there, we will meet with a general contractor who can take these very rough concepts and begin to project the cost of what we hope to do. Knowing a rough estimate of cost will help us determine what is possible and what is not.

Thank you for the trust you place in the building steering team, the council, and Scott and me as we navigate this phase of the project. We look forward to the day that we can share more concrete ideas with the congregation!

In the meantime, please continue to keep this project, its leaders, and our architects in your prayers, that we would be led by the Spirit of God to steward our property well, situating St. Peter's to be a place that shares God's love with vitality to its members and our wider community, well into the future.

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on November 13, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer:

| Budget Recap | October Actual | Year-to-Date Actual | Year-to-Date Budget | Difference Actual:Budget |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Income       | \$26,811.80    | \$330,843.87        | \$330,291.70        | \$552.17                 |
| Expense      | \$31,791.39    | \$304,771.69        | \$330,291.80        | <\$25,520.11>            |
| Difference   | <\$4,979.59>   | \$26,072.18         |                     |                          |

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

| October 2025                   | General Maint. & Repairs | Sanctuary Remodel | Total Building Funds |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Balance<br>October 1 | \$101,930.07             | \$250,196.00      | \$352,126.07         |
| Income                         | \$918.58                 | \$0               | \$918.58             |
| Expense                        | \$0                      | \$5,740.00        | \$4,821.42           |
| Ending Balance                 | \$102,848.65             | \$244,456.00      | \$347,304.65         |

## MUSIC NOTES

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As I was preparing to write this newsletter's article, I was thinking of the carol, "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" even though some Christmas seasons have been less merry than others. In researching this carol, I learned that I had been wrong my whole life about it.

Singing the proper English words of this song, I imagined proper, Victorian-clad men and women with red woolen scarves around their necks, caroling in perfect harmony on snowy London streets. Think "Tiny Tim and Scrooge." But I discovered the original punctuation of this carol has been changed over time. The title and first line, "God rest ye (you) merry" means "may God grant you peace and happiness" but is mistakenly sung with a misplaced comma. Instead of the phrasing, "God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen," it should read: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen."

The historic meaning of the phrase "God rest you merry" is 'may God grant you peace and happiness'; the *Oxford English Dictionary* records uses of this phrase from 1534 onwards. It appears in Shakespeare's play *As You Like It* and the phrase "rest you merry" appears in *Romeo and Juliet*; both plays date from the 1590s. Also, in typical 16th- to 17th-century language, the verb *rest* means "to keep, cause to continue, to remain."

Thus, this carol is not about "merry gentlemen" needing rest, but rather a Gospel blessing for all mankind to find peace or "comfort and joy" in the Good News of the Messiah's long-awaited arrival on Earth. It is as applicable to us in hard time as well as "merry" ones—perhaps more so! It encourages us to rest in God's peace. This year may we "rest merry" in the peace and true happiness that our Father provides through His Son, Jesus.

*Special thanks to Kay Warheit of Orchard Hill Church for her insights from December 2023*  
<https://www.orchardhillchurch.com/blog-post/2023/12/8/the-message-of-god-rest-ye-merry-gentlemen>.

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the staff at St. Peter's Preschool! We hope your holidays were/are full of love, laughter, and joy, and wish you a joy-filled 2026. We are looking forward to the new year and spending time creating a safe, loving learning environment for our kiddos, families, and staff!

In 2026 we will be showing off our newly refreshed kids' bathrooms and looking to purchase new kids' chairs for the entire school. The Lakeshore Learning chairs are made entirely of wood, stackable, and have a lifetime warranty! Look for a fundraiser coming soon as the chairs will be slightly over \$7,000 for 52 11.5-inch chairs! This will improve the look of our spaces and be an investment that keeps giving with the lifetime warranty! Check out [LakeshoreLearning.com](https://LakeshoreLearning.com) for more information.



We will be learning about people and animals living in cold regions, winter, and love and peace through Martin Luther King Jr.

Cheers to a FANTASTIC 2026!

Warmly,

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

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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### Special Meeting of the Congregation

A special meeting of the congregation has been called by Council President Pat Hendrickson, for Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2026 budget and conduct election of Council and Committee Members. All members are expected to attend.

Budget Review: On Sunday, December 7, following the worship service, we are holding a Budget Review to answer your questions and explain the components of the 2026 proposed budget.

## ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

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Dear Pastor and Congregation,

Thank you so much for continuing to support Loaves & Fishes; request for food grow daily, so church donations keep us afloat.

May God bless all of you for your generosity and community spirit.

Pat Katka, Board Member

## TACO NEWS

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**Bike the Bay, the TACO Way raised over \$20,000** TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Org.) had **47 riders** and **41 sponsors** who gave their time, money, and effort to help TACO raise \$10,068 from their Bike the Bay the TACO Way 2025 event!

Not only that, thanks to a matching grant from the **The Lucky Duck Foundation**, their event **raised a total of \$20,136** to help homeless and low-income members of our community! That money will help produce nearly **4,000 warm meals** this year!

A survey was sent out after the ride, and according to 100% of responses, this was a ride worth doing again, so they are already planning on Bike the Bay the TACO Way 2026! Save the Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026!

## PACIFICA SYNOD/ELCA NEWS

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### Dates for 2026 Regional Gatherings, "A-Zoom-bly"

We are pleased to announce the dates and locations for next year's in-person regional gatherings and our all-synod assembly being held over Zoom. Save the date!

Regional Gatherings (from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

- April 25, 2026 – Hawaii (at LC of Honolulu)
- May 2, 2026 – Inland Empire (Trinity, Riverside)
- May 9, 2026 – Orange County (Bethlehem, Los Alamitos)
- May 16, 2026 – San Diego (Clairemont, San Diego)

And the A-Zoom-bly (starting at 12 p.m. PDT):

- June 20, 2026

## INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

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### Interfaith Shelter Update

The schedule for St. Peter's to host Interfaith Shelter Network guests at our site is January 31 through February 21. This three-week schedule includes support and partnership from two other churches, All Souls' Episcopal and Westminster Presbyterian, and possible support from Point Loma Community Church.

Schedule is:

January 31 through February 7: St. Peter's volunteers  
February 7 through February 14: Westminster volunteers with support from St. Peter's  
February 14 through February 21: All Souls' volunteers

Also, an additional meeting/training will be held for volunteers who will be providing overnight host duties (date to be determined in January).

Darlene Truver and Sandra Boelter are co-coordinators for this year. We will begin recruiting volunteers for dinners and overnight hosts beginning in January. We look forward to your support.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Membership Directory Updates

The office will be updating our current Membership Directory in January. Please be sure we have your correct & preferred contact information.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On November 16th, we welcomed eight new members to St. Peter's by the Sea!

Left to right: Tim & Lauri Wilks, Claire Johnson, Marty Kain & Andi Blackwell with Cooper, and Charlie Dohrmann & Lauren Hirota.

Welcome!



## THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who donated pies and other goodies for the preschool's annual Friendsgiving Program and a special thank you to all our Pie Servers!

## 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 |           | Bicycling Group (resuming in January) |
| Fourth Saturday |           | Hiking Group (resuming in January)    |

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

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### Christmas Potluck Dinner and Gift Exchange

Saturday, December 6  
5:00 p.m.

Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to bring a main dish, salad, or side dish to share; dessert will be provided. Bring a gift to exchange; gender-neutral in the \$20 range.

For more info or to RSVP: contact Solveig Fuentes

*NOTE: this is also the night of the OB Christmas Parade, suggest using Catalina Blvd as an alternate route to St. Peter's.*

## BEER & CAROLS

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### You're Invited to the 4th Annual Beer and Carols!

Thursday, December 18  
7:00 p.m.

San Diego Brewing Company  
10450 Friars Rd, San Diego, CA 92120  
Join your friends from St. Peter's by the Sea and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Churches for a fun evening at the San Diego Brewing Co.



## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

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### Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesdays during Advent at 7:00 p.m.  
(Dec. 3, 10, 17)

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE

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### 2025 Angel Tree

On November 30, our Angel Tree appeared and will be available until December 14.

### Angel Tree - How it works

Angel Tree gifts go to one of two organizations in San Diego. The "red" angels are for specific children at our partner church, Our Savior's Lutheran; the "green" angels are for children in Mexico served by Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry.

1. RED Angels - choose your angel and sign the list with the corresponding number; shop for your "angel" with a price range of \$25 - \$30; wrap and return your gift to St. Peter's by Dec. 14, with the angel tag attached. Gift cards are acceptable for the older children.
2. GREEN Angels - choose your angel and bring your wrapped gift back to St. Peter's by Dec. 14, with the angel attached. Please, no gift cards and remember these gifts are going to children in Mexico (if purchasing books, etc.).

## BIRTHDAYS

### December B-days

#### Day

- 1 Cameron Box
- 3 Lindsey Harmon
- 4 Pete Fuentes
- 4 Chris Gridley
- 26 Greg Lommen
- 28 Jacquelyn Romero
- 30 Carole Otterstad

### January B-days

#### Day

- 2 Pastor Bekki Lohrmann
- 3 Silas Gilsdorf
- 6 Otto Harmon
- 7 Patti Pepper
- 8 Fernando Romero
- 9 Frieda Pallas Sprague
- 10 Charlene Gibson
- 15 Grace Hesse
- 23 Janine Morrow
- 23 Melissa Perez
- 29 Damon Goldstein
- 30 Ben Fadden
- 31 Delfino Lutack
- 31 Lauren Hirota



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Darlene M-T, Joan, Patty L., Kendra, Duane, Jo

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

Keith, 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**

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### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

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|             |           |                                                                               |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 21 | 9:30 a.m. | The 4th Sunday of Advent<br>Corelli Christmas Concerto                        |
| December 24 | 6:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Worship                                                         |
| January 4   | 9:30 a.m. | The 2nd Sunday of Christmas<br>Deacon Sunday with Service of Lessons & Carols |

