

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

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I've done it again. I've preached a bunch of times about the time I missed a burial service for a member's father in my first call. How I failed and there was absolutely nothing I could do to fix the situation accept take accountability for my mistake and validate for the family that they deserved so much better than what I had offered (or not offered) them and to contritely and sincerely apologize.

Well, this last Saturday, I was supposed to be the Dean that installed a new pastor in our area as she begins her call at a local Lutheran congregation. I showed up thinking I had ten minutes to quickly robe and get my leader's guide. I wasn't presiding over the service and I wasn't preaching but I did have a part to play in actually installing this new pastor. I arrived and heard the sound of chanting in the sanctuary. *Are they having a rehearsal?* A colleague of mine was standing outside, rocking her three-month-old baby and I asked, "What is happening?"

She said, "We're starting communion."

"What time did this service start?!" I asked. "It started at three!" It was ten minutes to four.

I was confronted again by the fact that I am wildly imperfect. That despite my best attempts and efforts, I fail. Not once, not twice, but over and over again.

I stood in the back of the church, frustrated and embarrassed. But then it was time for communion and while I really wanted to just turn on my heels and leave, I stayed and walked up and received the body and blood of Jesus and heard again that what God wants is actually our wildly imperfect selves...that's it. Don't wait until you get it right, just show up, mistakes and all. Don't marinate in your shame for too long. Apologize when necessary and then let God's mercy do its thing.

We're living through hard times and much is required of us as people who follow Jesus in these days. There is more to be done than any one

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

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

person can possibly do as our parents age or our children grow, as our nation moves forward in fits and starts through a period of great struggle, as we navigate illness and change and all manner of things.

Hear this and hear it clearly. **You are not required to move through this time with any amount of perfection. You are permitted to show up wildly imperfect...**to church, to your friends, to your family, to your nation. Just do the hard thing of showing up in the first place and then my dear ones, let God's mercy take it from there.

I look forward to showing up with you as we host **Interfaith Shelter** and the folks who will come to us for rest and shelter. I look forward to joining with you in song and prayer in **worship** on Sundays. I look forward to collecting non-perishable food and funds for the **Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 8** (Go Seahawks!) to feed our food-insecure neighbors through Loaves and Fishes/OBEF. Let's show up...together...imperfectly, letting God's mercy and grace take us from there!

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on January 21, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	2025 Year-to-Date Actual	2025 Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$383,082.59	\$396,350.00	<\$13,267.41 >
Expense	\$364,477.87	\$396,350.00	\$31,872.13
Difference	\$18,604.72		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

2025	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$134,281.72	\$0	\$134,281.72
Income	\$14,123.15	\$268,800.72	\$282,923.87
Expense	\$42,855.56	\$8,610.50	\$51,466.06
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	\$105,549.31	\$260,190.22	\$365,739.53

MUSIC NOTES

Most of us love Christmas and all the celebration and preparation that comes with the arrival of December. But at the same time, the dark evenings and mornings (often accompanied by a lack of sunlight in the day) can bring on a dip in our mental health, with feelings of lethargy and low motivation or worse. And the period after New Year's Eve until Spring can be even harder with no holiday activities and energy. Additionally, times of turmoil and uncertainty threaten to overwhelm us; times such as these in this country. Trapped in the darkness we wonder when—if!—we shall see light again!

A wonderful hymn for times like this is “*Rise, Shine, You People!*” This hymn reminds us that Christ comes to those surrounded by darkness, sin and death not to give the generic grace of God, but to bear the darkness we face each day. It reminds us of what our response to such times should be: to take the bushel off our little light!

Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus' glory. Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation God's new creation.

Do not be discouraged into hiding your light or your conviction, into waiting for the sun to return or the days to grow long. In spite of the circumstances, we are God's beloved people today and forever. Rise, shine! If you aren't familiar with this hymn you can hear and follow the words here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeRMRzAcAp4&list=RDMeRMRzAcAp4&start_radio=1

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Donations from Traditional IRA at age 70 ½ even before the required age 73

You can start giving charitable donations from your IRA, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), at age 70 ½, even though your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) don't start until age 73 (or 75 if born in 1960 or later), allowing you to transfer up to \$108,000 (per person, per year) directly to a charity tax-free, which counts towards your RMD once you're required to take them.

Key Details for Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs):

- **Age Requirement:** You must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the distribution.
- **Source:** Must come from an eligible Traditional IRA (not SEP or SIMPLE IRAs).
- **Direct Transfer:** The money must go directly from your IRA custodian to the qualified charity (a 501(c)(3) organization).
- **Tax Benefit:** The distribution is excluded from your taxable income, reducing your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).
- **RMD Credit:** Once you are required to take RMDs (starting at age 73), QCDs can satisfy all or part of your RMD for that year.
- **Annual Limit:** Up to \$108,000 per individual, per year (as of late 2025).

Why it's beneficial:

This strategy lets you support charities while reducing your taxable income, potentially lowering your Medicare premiums and tax bracket, without waiting until you're forced to take RMDs.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome New Council

The Church Council met on January 21st; officers were elected and committee assignments were made for 2026:

Executive Committee:

Pastor Bekki Lohrmann
 President: Greg Lommen
 Vice-President: Jennifer Smart
 Secretary: Allison Crews
 Treasurer: Ellen Schmeding

Committee Assignments:

Property: Fletcher Miller
 Worship: Steve Silva
 Preschool: Ellen Schmeding
 Stewardship: Gabi Hughes
 Christian Education: Jennifer Smart
 Christian Service: Liz Medina

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Soup-er Bowl 2026

It's Back! On Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, our Confirmation youth are sponsoring a one-day food drive for our local food pantry, Loaves & Fishes.

Bring a non-perishable food item (no cream soups) or cash/check donation and “vote” for your favored team!

Each food item or dollar equals one point; we'll tally the teams at the end of Fellowship Hour and predict the winner—although, the real winners are those in need in our community.

Palms

If you saved your Palm Sunday palm branches from last year, it's time to bring them back to church. Place them in the basket in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, February 15 when our confirmation class will assist in making the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Jazz Mass

February 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Join your friends & family at St. Peter's by the Sea for our 4th annual Jazz Mass on *The Transfiguration of Our Lord* Sunday.

Ash Wednesday

February 18 at 7:00 p.m.

We begin our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday with a smudge of ash on our forehead and a call to repent in our heart. We desire to make this a time to be with the Lord in a special way, with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time to reflect on our baptism and to follow Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death through the cross and resurrection.

Wednesdays in Lent:

6:00-7:00 Soup Supper

There will be sign-up sheets for soup, salad, and bread on the bulletin board! Come and enjoy a meal together!

7:00-7:30 Prayer: For the Healing of the Nations

Gather around the cross for prayer, singing, and lighting candles as we pray together for the needs of the world this Lent.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE TEAM NEWS

Christian Service Committee Forum

Sunday, Feb. 8, after worship

Please join us for a guided discussion about our current Christian Services projects and opportunities for new projects here at St. Peter's.

We would like to have as much input as possible to guide this ministry in 2026.

Plan to grab your coffee and treats and join the discussion. We will finish by 11:30.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's Preschool friends and families,

Please welcome Miss Adriana as a full-time aide, and Miss Lauren and Miss Michelle to our staff. Both will be on-call subs and all are a very welcome addition to our team.



This February we will again be hosting our "SHOW YOUR LOVE" cleaning supply drive. Sanitizing and keeping our kiddos, staff, and families healthy is a huge priority. Things we would greatly appreciate any donations of:

- Clorox Wipes
- Lysol disinfectant spray
- Bleach
- Paper towels
- Dawn dish soap
- Distilled white vinegar
- Pine Sol
- Also, Amazon gift cards are awesome!

We will also be celebrating dental health month with a visit from Point Loma Children's Dentistry, Valentine's Day with class parties, and an entire week of love and friendship, learning about Black History Month and the weather!

We are thankful you all are a part of our wonderful community!
Kindly,

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

BUILDING STEERING UPDATES

Right now the team is working with the architect to fine tune an architectural concept before we take that drawing to a contractor to give us a rough estimate of magnitude which would tell us the rough cost of a project at this scale. Once we have this information, we will know whether we need to scale back or proceed, at which point we will have more information to share with you.

In the meantime, you will find in the back of the sanctuary, near the main entrance, holes in the drywall surrounding one of the pillars. You can look inside and see that the pillar is wood and is smaller than the drywall. There is painters tape on the drywall to show you the side of the pillar inside.

Thank you for your patience as we continue the process.

IN MEMORIUM



Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jane H. who died in December. Jane was a member of St. Peter's by the Sea since moving to Ocean Beach in 1981. She served St. Peter's in many capacities over the years, including sharing her talents as a nurse and chairing our Health & Wellness Team when it first began. A memorial service was held in Jane's hometown of Selma, CA.

INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

January 31 to February 21, 2026

To all members of St Peters: We are once again hosting the Interfaith Shelter here at St Peters. We are blessed to work with Westminster Presbyterian and All Souls' Episcopal churches this year. Guests will be here for three weeks. We are the host site and coordinating weeks with All Souls' and Westminster.

January 31–February 7 will be volunteers from St. Peter's

February 7–14 will be volunteers from Westminster

February 14–21 will be volunteers from All Souls'

Manolo Guilien from the Interfaith Shelter Network has said, "I feel honored and blessed to be surrounded by so many compassionate people like you. The selfless work you all do will once again make a huge difference in the lives of so many in San Diego."

If you have any questions, please contact
Sandie Boelter or Darlene Truver

PACIFICA SYNOD/ELCA NEWS

Join Congregations from around San Diego for Border Church

Every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

At Whiskey 8 (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/acuft64TMQQDpCQe6>)

Border Church: A community of faith spanning an international border.



We invite you to join us for worship, learning, and a message of hope. The Border Church is where faith inspires action—we are committed to serving our community on both sides of the border and advocating for justice.

All are welcome! Come as you are, and join us for a transformative experience. See you on Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Whiskey 8!

THANK YOUs

Dear St. Peter's Congregation,

Thank you so much for your support! It made it possible for me to represent the U.S. in an international softball tournament where I got to play in Cuba against their junior national team. The trip was an incredible experience where I not only had an amazing time, but learned so much. It



would not have been possible without your donations and support, which I am extremely grateful for. Thank you!

-Lillianne-

ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

Dear friends of Loaves & Fishes,

Thank you so very much for the generous gift of \$1,140.00 which was received in December with deep gratitude. For many years, your church has supported Loaves & Fishes—a blessing for us and local families and individuals in need.

May God reward all of you who help us in this ministry.

Sincerely,
 Pat Katka, Board Member

TACO NEWS

St. Peter's helps to serve a meal the first Friday of the month and your help is needed. You don't have to serve every month, but we'd love to have you on our list of volunteers for when you're available.

We meet downtown, at First Lutheran Church, at 8:30 a.m. and are generally done by 10:30 a.m.

This is a heart-warming experience and you are encouraged to give it a try!

To be on the volunteer list, or to learn more, contact the church office at: office@stpetersbythesea.org

BIRTHDAYS**February B-days****Day**

- 4 Richard N.
- 4 Jennifer O.
- 10 Mark T.
- 9 Ade C.
- 11 Avelia BG
- 13 Scott W.
- 15 Madeline O.
- 15 Paul R.
- 19 Sue F.
- 19 Isaak L.
- 20 Amanda N.
- 21 Kendra T.
- 26 Lily C.
- 27 Duane B.
- 27 Barbara H.
- 29 Evan S.

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

Darlene M-T, Patty L., Kendra, Jo, Karen M., Dante

Our homebound members and those in care facilities:

Keith, Carolyn, 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

February 6 Serve at TACO
February 15 Jazz Mass
February 18 Ash Wednesday

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sundays	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service, live-streamed
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School (except the last Sunday of the month)
	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 (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)