

# 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 Ones,

You can almost take the temperature of a community by dropping an act of beauty into the midst of it and watching how it is received.

Look at the story in John's gospel where Mary, the sister of Lazarus, pours costly perfume all over Jesus' feet, filling the house with the sweet aroma of the perfume (Jn. 12:1-8). A thing of beauty dropped down into the midst of a fraught situation; Lazarus has just been raised from the dead and now the overwhelmingly sweet scent, the lavish gesture, the extravagant touch of Mary's act fills the house. Then Judas Iscariot barks out, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (Jn. 12:5)

The thermometer shows that Judas is sick with the fever of this world, obsessed with utility. **When the response to beauty is reduced to a protest on the grounds of functionality (which is what Judas is doing), we have lost sight of our primary calling as people who follow the way of Jesus.** We are living in a distorted reality when value can only be ascribed to useful and productive efforts. We were made to be more than an assembly line after all.

Alexander Schmemmann says it best when he writes, "Beauty is never 'necessary,' 'functional' or 'useful.' And when, expecting someone whom we love, we put a beautiful tablecloth on the table and decorate it with candles and flowers, **we do all this not out of necessity, but out of love.**" [1]

**Love is our reason for being. Not utility, but love.**

I've said this before, but as we move forward with plans for a new sanctuary, it is easy for me to fall into the Judas trap. The nations rage, SNAP benefits are reduced, our city has a major housing shortage, temporary protective status was just removed for Haitians and Syrians and the Islamic Community in San Diego is still enduring the lasting

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[1] *For The Life of The World: Sacraments and Orthodoxy*

## Worship Services

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. onsite  
& live-streamed

## Staff

Rev. Bekki Lohrmann, pastor

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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

effects of grief and trauma after being terrorized by active shooters. How can we afford to spend all this money on a new sanctuary?

Through the lens of Schmemmann, my question has changed; in a world so wrought with angst and anguish where churches, communities, families, and the very earth herself are knee deep in trouble, **how can we who follow Jesus *not* prioritize a place set apart for the purpose of lavishing the earth and all her creatures with a love so potent that it adorns the beloved in beauty**; with bread and wine, with music and art, with beeswax candles that smell like heaven, lit in the hands of 120 people on Christmas Eve, or a brass quartet on the cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean on Easter Sunday. This is the church's work.

The world is in trouble and part of its trouble is that we have forgotten that **our primary calling is love**, and if that is the case then we have permission to be about the work of adorning our beloved in beauty. If you are sick with the same fever as Judas, thinking you exist for productivity, lay down and put a hot compress on your forehead. After it passes, walk into your sanctuary, your children's school, your dining room, or down the sidewalk of your local strip mall. **What act of beauty is called for there?** It might be met with resistance. It might be called frivolity. It is, after all, not work that makes any sense in the humdrum ethos of productivity. But fear not, it is God's work, it has power to revive and restore this world to its rightful state: belovedness.

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on June 17, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	May Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$48,450.74	\$194,308.83	\$169,374.95	\$24,933.88
Expense	\$32,226.12	\$153,285.68	\$169,375.00	<\$16,089.32 >
Difference	\$16,224.62	\$41,023.15		

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

May 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$109,694.16	\$261,741.70	\$371,435.86
Income	\$1,499.27	\$772.92	\$2,272.09
Expense	\$0	\$1,012.50	\$1,012.50
Ending Balance	\$111,193.43	\$261,502.02	\$372,695.45

## PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

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### A Message from Presiding Bishop Curry About America at 250

As we approach Independence Day this week, Bishop Dave encourages each person in our synod to read and engage with this message from Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, "[All Together in One Place.](#)"

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement [Faith and Civic Life](#), p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.
- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” ([Faith and Civic Life](#), p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,



The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## MUSIC NOTES

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*This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.*

Most Lutherans are familiar with the hymn, *This Is My Song*, which is most frequently used as a hymn of peace, but it did not start out that way. The tune was written in 1899 by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius as part of a protest against Russian censorship. He composed it to symbolize hope and resolution. The censorship was so intense that this piece could not be performed publicly under the name *Finlandia*, so other titles were devised.

Lloyd Stone was an American public school teacher who lived in Hawaii; he authored ten books of poetry and a couple of children's books. He wrote the first two stanzas of *This Is My Song* in 1934. This was during the brief time of peace between two world wars and was a song of hope for all nations. While acknowledging his love for his own country, Stone balanced that with the love that others around the world feel for their nations. Georgia Harkness, one of the first women ordained in the Methodist Church, added two stanzas in the late 1930s. Her addition takes a hymn of peace into a prayer for peace. Despite its origins in protest, this hymn does not evoke bitterness or strife but only a tender love of country and a stout patriotism not to the individual political nation, but to all people, in God's love.

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

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### LWR & LBCM School Kits

St Peter's Christian Service, aka "Church Mice," are getting ready for school. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LBCM) are the beneficiaries of our mission project.



Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is de-prioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities.

In July, we will be collecting school supplies. In August, we will assemble school bags and backpacks with school supplies and then we will have a blessing of the bags and backpacks. In September, we will pack and get them ready to ship to various drop-off centers.

These are the supplies we are looking for:

Sets of Four 70 sheet notebooks	Unsharpened #2 pencils
30 centimeter wooden rulers (we need these most)	Black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
Pencil sharpeners	Boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
Blunt tipped scissors	2 ½ inch erasers
Backpacks for LBCM	

Church Mice are purchasing school bags for LWR. LWR has particular requirements they want to be used for school bags.

Thank you for supporting our mission in filling the school bags and school backpacks to ensure children and adults can continue to learn.

For more information contact Elaine Lauger.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Vacation Bible School Camp

Register Soon! Camp is Filling Up Quickly!

Dates: July 13-17  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
 Location: St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church

This year, we're partnering with Luther Glen Farm (LRCC) and St. Peter's will be hosting VBS the week of July 13-17.

Registration is closing soon; please complete your form as soon as possible by clicking [HERE](#).

Scholarships are available.

### Summer Sunday School Update:

We are taking a break for the summer months of June and July, resuming August 9 with a "Rally Sunday". This is a well-deserved break for you as a family and for our teachers. If you would like to know more about serving as one of the Sunday School teachers, speak with Jennifer Smart.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's Preschool friends and families,

We are enjoying these extra fun summer days! We have welcomed back some St. Peter's alumni for the summer and are so amazed at how they have grown. It is such a special time when we are able to welcome these families back into the St. Peter's community! The children and staff are enjoying our twice weekly pool days, where we spend the morning in water play of all kinds and our Science Days with Ms. Bekah!



Lastly, we are finalizing enrollment for the new school year and enrollment is filling right up. If you have any family or friends that are looking for child care please, have them reach out to set up a tour and see what SPP has to offer!

Have a wonderful and safe 4th of July!

Kindly,

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

## ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

St. Peter's Congregation,

Thank you for the love, kindness, & support you showed our family during Duane's Celebration of Life. Your prayers, warm hospitality & thoughtful acts of care brought us comfort during a difficult time.

We are truly grateful you came to help us honor "A life well lived" of Duane. The beautiful service, the prayers, hugs, kind words and sharing memories of Duane (& Pat) meant more than we can ever fully express.

Thank you for opening your church to our family.

The Beck and Estes family

# PRIDE PARADE JULY 18, 2026

## MARCH WITH LUTHERANS FOR LOVE



**What:** March to support our siblings in Christ! Proclaim all are welcome!

**When:** Saturday, July 18

**Gather at:** St. Peter's Parking Lot, carpool to First Lutheran, take shuttles from there.

**Gathering time:** 8:30!

**What to bring:** Water. A hat. Sunscreen. A Lutherans for Love T-shirt if you have it. Most importantly, God's love!

**Contact:** Jeff Cours or Pastor Bekki

### Pray!

Pray for our siblings, our marchers, and our society!

### March!

Join us in marching! (Lots of standing and walking. Might have to move quickly.)

### Volunteer!

Drive a shuttle, decorate the float, serve food!

### Donate!

Support the effort! ("Pride Parade" on your envelope.)  
Use Thrivent dollars!

**BIRTHDAYS**

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**July B-days****Day**

3	Gail Bennett
5	Michael Silva
13	Elina Pepper
14	Dante Hurteau
16	Richard Doering
19	Bishop Dave Nagler
20	Amanda Fadden
20	Elton Kin'kki
22	Danielle Fadden
31	Jane Manderscheid

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Patty L., 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

**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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July 13-17	VBS 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
July 18	Pride Parade at 10:00 a.m.
July 19-24	Confirmation Camp

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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Sundays	9:00 a.m.	Summer Drop-In Choir
	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 - note 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)