

# 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 are inching ever closer to clear building plans which we will share with you all on August 16 after worship, so mark your calendars! This month I want to remind you where we've been and share with you where we are headed.

### Where we've been.

Last year we spent time discerning what we want in a new space. This is what we came up with:

- We want every single part of the space to be **physically accessible** to all people. This means wider aisles, an accessible chancel, choir loft, and sacristy, upgraded sound systems and lighting systems.
- We want to **remove all barriers** to receiving the good things that God has for us in worship. This means a space free of columns, railings and again, upgrading things like light and sound so that everyone can see, hear, and experience the fullness of worship. It also means replacing the HVAC system.
- We all agreed that we encounter God most in places of **awe and beauty** so we want this space to utilize artistic, musical and natural beauty, bringing the outside in and drawing inspiration from our awe-inspiring setting. We were clear that we want light and air!
- We want to keep central **the things that have always been central to us**: the Word, the table, the font, and the cross.
- We want the sanctuary to make individuals feel **embraced** but not exposed.

### Where we are.

Right now, our sanctuary is underutilized despite that fact that our building is in high demand.

The last time we did a capital campaign the theme was, "All Are Welcome." What if this time, our job was to make that welcome even deeper and wider? Creating a space that we could share with neighbors for weddings and concerts, that we could use for Prayer Around the Cross during Lent, that we could share with Twelve Step groups so that when Interfaith Shelter is here, everyone has enough room? Imagine

## 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

## 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

sitting in worship and feeling the breeze, bathing in light, where we are afforded the calm of a space of refuge but aren't cut off from our surroundings.

### **Where we're going.**

Between now and August, the building steering team is working with our stewardship strategist, Don, and our architects, John and Charity, to create a case statement whereby we make the case for a potential design and direction for this project.

Between August and September, the whole congregation will undergo a feasibility study to assess how excited and invested the congregation is in this potential plan. This is a time of congregational discernment. Is this really the direction that God is calling us?

The capital campaign will be held over 4 different Sundays spanning between October and November, complete before Thanksgiving.

This project is different than the "All Are Welcome" Campaign in 2014 in that the campaign will come long before the construction. We need to know how seriously the congregation is willing to invest in this plan before we invest in completing the design. From there it will take time to bring the design to completion, undergo permitting, and construction.

I ask that you enter in to prayer, deeply and sincerely because if we endeavor to do this, we are going to need to have our ear tuned to God's spirit.

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## **NEWS FROM THE TREASURER**

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on May 20, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$27,122.58	\$145,858.09	\$135,499.96	\$10,358.13
Expense	\$29,468.74	\$121,059.56	\$135,500.00	<\$14,440.44 >
Difference	<\$2,346.16>	\$24,798.53		

### **All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign**

April 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$107,936.83	\$256,991.70	\$364,928.53
Income	\$1,872.65	\$10,000.00	\$11,872.65
Expense	\$115.32	\$5,250.00	\$5,365.32
Ending Balance	\$109,694.16	\$261,741.70	\$371,435.86

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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### Anchor Station Planning is Underway

Three years ago, St. Peter's formed a Homelessness Task Force to examine the needs of unhoused people, the needs of our community, and how we might be called to act. We found a program in Pacific Beach called the Compass Station, which is a drop-in center for unhoused people to do business: laundry, phone charging, computer access, and access to services like document recovery, family reunification, EBT benefits, and housing coordination. Think of it like a DMV for unhoused people.

The task force wanted to bring something like this to Ocean Beach but quickly determined that to do that, we would need to bring the churches together. This was something far too ambitious to take on alone. So, charged by the congregation and led by the Spirit, Pastor Bekki gathered the faith leaders in Ocean Beach and Point Loma to come together. For the past two years, they have been gathering once a month as the Peninsula Faith Leaders and the spirit of friendship and collaboration has been remarkable!

From within this group, other voices expressed a desire for a drop-in center like PB's Compass Station and the project began to get traction. This month, we brought together a steering team, made up of representatives from St. Peter's, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Resurrection OB, Submerge Church, All Souls' Episcopal, Westminster Presbyterian, First Church of the Nazarene, and Point Loma Community Presbyterian!

This team is charged with taking this vision off the page and making it real and we're calling it the "Anchor Station." Right now, the idea is that it would start out as a volunteer-operated space, open for 3 hours a week at the Episcopal Center on Wednesdays during their usual mail room service for unhoused folks. Mind you, there's a bit more work to do before we can launch this space.

In the meantime, please be in prayer for this project as it grows from a single seed, into a seedling, into something like a mustard shrub that will provide care and nourishment for our whole community.

In time, the dream would be to make this a funded, staffed, fully operational service hub that's open 5 days a week. But for now, it's a dream about to take flight. Be on the lookout for ways to get involved. Reach out to St. Peter's Anchor Station Rep Darlene Truver or Pastor Bekki if you have questions!

## THANK YOUs

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Dear St. Peter's Congregation,

I'm writing to express my gratitude for the educational grant I was awarded from the church. The amount of blessings and support I have received from St. Peter's over the years is overwhelming, and has helped shape me into the person I am today. I am grateful for the opportunity this scholarship will give me in my studies abroad and I look forward to making the congregation proud.

May God bless you all as you have blessed others,

Shea S.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE TEAM NEWS

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### Skivvy Sundays are Back in June

Collection for our neighbors at Showers of Blessings

New wrapped boxers or briefs.

Men's medium and large in highest demand



## MUSIC NOTES

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I have previously written about the hymn “Siyahamba” or “We Are Walking in the Light of God,” which is a Zulu chorus that emerged in a rural Protestant congregation somewhere in South Africa. In 1978, a Swedish choral group toured South Africa at the invitation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa. The group’s musical director heard and recorded “Siyahamba” at a girls’ school and introduced it to the wider world. We have sung it here at St. Peter’s; it is #866 in the ELW. But I didn’t know of its use as a song of protest.

“Siyahamba” has been associated with the anti-apartheid movement, but it was not composed as a protest song. However, after its introduction to Europe and the US in the 1980s, it was often used in the international efforts organized by Western Christian churches to end the regime of racial discrimination in South Africa. These days, “Siyahamba” is viewed both locally and internationally as a liberation song. As such, it is still performed not only in church and at concerts, but also at rallies, demonstrations, and marches, sometimes with the lyrics modified to match the cause of the event. I recently found it cited in a report of the January 16, 2024, Day of Action in Washington, D.C. by Mennonite Action protestors calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. They added verses to suit the issue such as “We are singing for a ceasefire now.” Thus, the historic South African tune continues to contribute to current struggles for change.

I first learned “Siyahamba” from Hannah, whose high school choir used it as a warm-up exercise. Later I used it as a choir anthem which was uplifting and easy enough to sing—once you got the Zulu pronunciations down! I always feel a connection with people half-way around the world from me when we sing it in Zulu; now I feel even more connection with people who are striving for the dignity and equality of all God’s children.

Sample this song as done around the world: <https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/siyahamba>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## GRADUATION NEWS

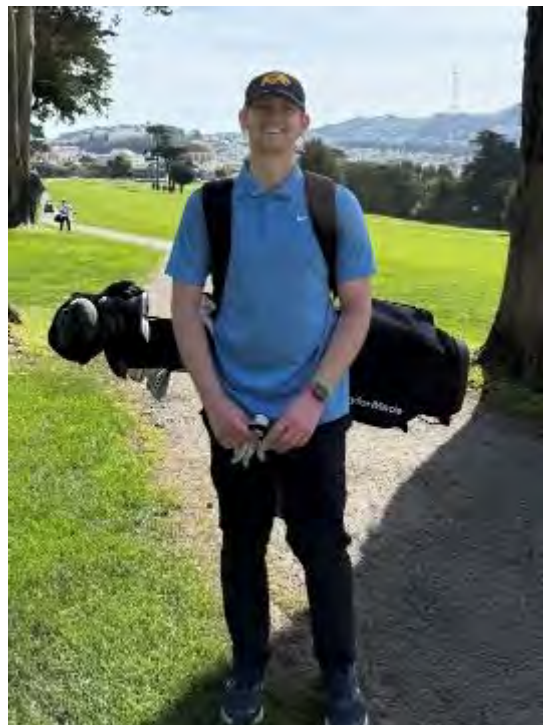
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### Congratulations, Graduate!

Evan Smart graduated from UC Berkeley in May with a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering. He is deeply grateful for the friendships, memories, and professional connections he has built over the past four years.

During his time at Berkeley, Evan was actively involved on campus through two professional organizations, a fraternity, and two on-campus jobs, all of which helped shape both his personal and professional growth. He also had the opportunity to study abroad in Dublin, Ireland, where he explored Europe and gained a broader global perspective. Evan is especially thankful for the constant support, encouragement, and prayers from his church community throughout his college journey.

Following graduation, he will begin his career with Boeing as a Safety Systems Engineer in Long Beach, California.



## 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 now open; please complete your form as soon as possible by clicking [HERE](#).

Scholarships are available.



### Summer Sunday School Update:

We will take 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.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's friends and families,

☀️ Welcome to Our Summer Era!

Summer has officially arrived, and we're ready to dive in—literally. Pool Days begin this Tuesday and will continue every Tuesday and Friday throughout the season. We can't wait for splashes, sunshine, and all the joyful water play ahead.



🎉 Celebrating Father's Day: June 18

We're looking forward to honoring all our amazing dads at our annual Father's Day event on Thursday, June 18. Join us for singing, treats, and a time of fellowship. A heartfelt thank you to Ellen and the congregation for graciously hosting this special celebration.

👋 Staffing Update

We're saying a warm but bittersweet goodbye to Miss Jessica as she transitions to a school closer to home. She has been such a gift to our community, and we wish her every success in this next chapter.



*Miss Cynthia*

At the same time, we're thrilled to welcome Miss Cynthia, who

officially joined us on June 1. Coming to us from Westminster Presbyterian Preschool, she brings wonderful experience and an amazing spirit. We're excited for the energy and care she'll add to our team.

Warmly,

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

## PACIFICA SYNOD/ELCA NEWS

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The Pacifica Synod held in-person Regional Gatherings across California and Hawaii in preparation for the annual assembly. Once again, the full assembly will be held online, an "A-Zoom-bly." We thank Colleen and Richard Doering, who will attend with Pastor Bekki, as our voting delegates. Please keep them in prayer as they attend to the business of our Pacifica Synod.

## ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

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Dear friends in Christ at St. Peter's by the Sea and the Endowment Committee,

Thank you for your continued support for Agape San Diego campus ministry building campaign latest contribution of \$345.63.

As you may have seen or heard by now, our design is complete, approved, and shovel-ready for our builder to begin as soon as we have final investments and gifts and a loan guarantor.

Thank you for persevering with this vision to expand and sustain our capacity to house 46+ students in our residential faith and vocations leadership program. We hope to announce events by the fall.

Gratefully,  
Pastor Darin & Agape Community

## TACO NEWS

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Third Avenue Charitable Organization

**That time a failed membership drive turned into a ministry.**

Over thirty years ago, San Diego First Lutheran Church embarked on a mission to attract new congregants, so they opened up the kitchen and served free lunches to the downtown businesspeople. After a few weeks of this, they didn't notice all that many businesspeople, but they could definitely see how the tables were filling up with people experiencing homelessness and those living in the low-budget hotels and apartments nearby.

Right away, church members realized they must realign their mission with the needs of the neighborhood, so Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) was created as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization to provide meals, clothing, mail services, and social work to those who need it. For the past several years, TACO has expanded to partner with social and educational institutions to offer medical, dental, and legal services, weekly.

Today, we are still at it. TACO is a special community of volunteers, church members, staff, and clients. We work with everyone, regardless of race, gender, background, orientation, nationality, political affiliation, religion, or even one's cat/dog preference(!) Over two hundred people come to us for help every day because we treat them with respect and love.

**If you'd like to experience the love of TACO for yourself, join St. Peter's by the Sea on the first Friday of the month to help serve a meal.**

**Date: Friday, June 5**

**Time: meet at First Lutheran church at 8:30 a.m. or carpool from St. Peter's at 8:15 a.m.**

**BIRTHDAYS**

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**June B-days****Day**

2	Dean Sutter
8	Babette Kamm
11	Joan Allton
13	Donna Wilder
15	Lyle Beller
20	Joe DeMers
25	Diane Bultemeier
26	Maggie Box

**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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June 5	Serve at TACO
June 18	Preschool Father's Day Event
June 20	Pacifica Synod Assembly

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Sundays	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Summer Schedule)
	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 Spiritual 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		Biking Group (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)