

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

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's by the Sea,

For the past several months we have been collecting input on the values and priorities of our church, regarding a sanctuary remodel. On Sunday, June 22, we held a congregational forum to share the findings.

Over the past few months we held 5 small group forums with over 35 people in attendance, we went on a "Church Crawl" to three unique and exemplary worship spaces attended by 15 people, we held two large forums for everyone that were well attended, and we hosted two "Worship Mix-Up" Sundays where we explored different configurations of worship in the fellowship hall.

For those of you who were not able to attend the forum on the 22nd, we wanted to share with you our findings:

St. Peter's Core Values – Who We Are

St. Peter's by the Sea believes in holy encounter.

We are a people of wholehearted embrace, action rooted in faith, sculpted and softened by God's love.

As we endeavor to create a new sanctuary, we want it to do the following things:

1. **We want every single part of the space to be physically accessible to all people.**
 - a. Aisles and space between pews need to be widened
 - b. The chancel, sacristy, and choir area need to be handicap accessible
 - c. Wheelchair and stroller seating needs to be integrated into the space
 - d. Open the space in the front of the nave so that it can be flexible where preschool kids can sit on the floor for chapel time and small groups (12-steps and bible studies) could meet
 - e. The scope of this project is not limited to the existing footprint or layout

2. **We want to remove all barriers to receiving the good things that God has for us in worship.**
 - a. Clear sight lines. Remove the posts.
 - b. Replace and improve the current sound system
 - c. Invest in new hearing assistance devices
 - d. Bring in an acoustic engineer to design a space that will amplify spoken and sung voices appropriately
 - e. Replace the current heating/cooling system
 - f. Remove the communion railing
 - g. Make all spiritual centers (lectern, table, font, cross) visible from all locations
 - h. New lighting and dimming/control system
 - i. Better lighting, quality and quantity
 - j. Consider additional permanent cameras for live-streaming worship
 - k. Consider integrating the cry room into the space in a way that is not a thoroughfare
3. **We want the space to use beauty—artistic, musical, and natural—to inspire awe in worshippers**
 - a. Find a way to incorporate the elements of our beautiful, natural context into our sanctuary design. Bring the outside in.
 - b. Improve external landscaping
 - c. Open the space to incorporate ample natural, diffused, and indirect light
 - d. Use natural wood
 - e. Integrate music, both instruments and choir, into the worship space. We do not want the choir in the chancel but we want them where their music can most enhance our worship.
4. **We want the space to retain its intimacy and focus while at the same time creating a feeling of openness.**
 - a. Increase seating by 10 percent
 - b. Remove excess chancel furniture
 - c. Consider placement of clear windows to allow in light without distraction
 - d. Consider ways to increase natural airflow
5. **Highlight spiritual centers—place of the Word, table, font—and maintain a central and prominent cross.**
 - a. Consider scale and balance—these elements are equal in value
 - b. These centers are of immense importance and ought to be elevated and at the same time, because of God's grace, they should be inviting and human-scale
 - c. We want a baptismal font that has ample space around it for gathering, that welcomes all people into our space, and that communicates the lavish nature of God's love
 - d. Create a larger sacristy that is attached to the sanctuary
6. **We want the sanctuary to embrace each person who enters without making them feel exposed.**
 - a. Consider seating that leaves us feeling connected but not exposed
 - b. We want it to feel like a place of respite and calm, connecting us to one another and to God
 - c. We do not want a multipurpose feel

We would also like the architect to consider the following, which may or may not be incorporated into this project:

1. A clear and welcoming entryway to the office on Sunset Cliffs Blvd
2. A new sign on the corner of Sunset Cliffs Blvd and Point Loma Ave
3. Access to Sunday School rooms throughout the week without going through the preschool
4. Replacing the stairs to the Sunday School rooms
5. Connecting the church and the office building.
6. Integrate the sanctuary sound system with the fellowship hall sound system

Elements that some people want and others do not:

- Screens
- Pews over chairs
- Chairs over pews
- Current Nautical Theme
- Current Stained Glass

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Our next step is for the Building Steering Team to begin interviewing architects and soliciting initial drawings. Please reach out with any questions or concerns to any member of the team: Scott Walls, Darlene Morrow-Truver, Colleen Doering, Richard Nielsen, Jim Grutkowski, or myself.

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

MUSIC NOTES

Living in an urban setting, we lose sight of stars; only the biggest and brightest ones can be seen above the light pollution of street lights, traffic lights, and neon signs. When we visit someplace more remote—like, say, the desert—we see a completely different painting on the canvas of the sky. Swirls and sprays of lights bedazzle us, and we are awestruck by this “wonder.” We forget that wonder is ALWAYS there, we just can’t see it due to all our other, artificial lights.

Recently I was perusing new music available through an online source I have used a lot in my various careers. I no longer need to be scouting out or buying new choral music, but I enjoy seeing what is there. This week I found a piece that really spoke to me: *There Will Be Stars* by Andy Beck. The writeup for the piece reads, “Offering the reassurance that only nature can bring, this original concert work reminds us that at the end of every day, there will be stars.”

What a lovely thought—no matter how difficult your day at the end of it there will be stars. No matter how dark your night is, there are still stars. Little pinpricks of light in the dark sky reminding us who and where we are. Stars have served as instruments of navigation for centuries, centering us and pointing us to where we want to go. In the creation story, God created the stars on the fourth day, setting them “...in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness.”

One of the first songs most of us learned as children is *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Perhaps, in part, that is to teach us early on that even in the darkness, there is light. At the end of every day, there will be stars.

You can hear this piece here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm02lwL9bRA>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister



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!



We are planning a fundraiser day at Classics Malt shop for July please be on the lookout in the weekly Happenings for the date!

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
 619-224-1689

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OB Church Camp

Thanks to everyone who made the week a success. Lots of activities, crafts, and learning about the Waves of Gratitude were enjoyed by approximately 23 children and 20 adults and youth who made it all possible. Plans are already on the radar for next year with an earlier start to planning in January or February to be ready to repeat this wonderful ministry to our community.

Sunday School is taking a break until September. Committee Meetings will begin again in August to plan for the new school year. Until then, enjoy our wonderful summer weather.

Sandie Boelter
 Education Committee Chair



NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on June 19, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	May Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$24,577.67	\$187,395.65	\$165,145.85	\$22,249.80
Expense	\$28,265.37	\$152,610.69	\$165,145.90	<\$12,535.21>
Difference	<\$3,687.70>	\$34,784.96		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

	May 2025
Beginning Balance	\$136,862.04
Income	\$2,313.37
Expense	\$0
Ending Balance	\$139,175.85

PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

Join Bishop Dave for a Tour of Greece & Turkey!

October 22 - November 2, 2025

In Invitation from Bishop Dave:

After the scales fell from Saul's eyes and he became Paul his only passion was sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. He understood that the message of God's unconditional love was not just for Jewish people like him, but for everyone! So he followed God's leading to faraway places and diverse cultures to let them know how Divinely loved they truly were.

I want to invite you to join me in following Paul's footsteps through Türkiye and Greece. We will stand in places where he delivered sermons. We will meet people who are direct spiritual descendants of these early churches. Most importantly, we will open our hearts to what God has to say to us and how God can transform our lives. I hope that you will make the investment of time and finances in this once in a lifetime spiritual pilgrimage. Let's do this together!



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE!](#)

Congratulations, Graduates!



Shea S. received her diploma with honors from Clairemont High School on June 28, 2025. Due to her accelerated credit completion, she was able to graduate early in December 2024 with over ten more credits than required. Shea will attend Mesa College, with the goal to transfer to a four-year university. Since her graduation, Shea has traveled and will continue to do so, including a trip to Greece this summer. Shea would like to thank the church for their ongoing support as it helped cultivate the person that she is today.



We also congratulate **Marcos P.** on their high school graduation.

 **CLASS OF** 
2025



BIRTHDAYS

July B-days

Day

3	Gail Bennett
13	Elina P.
14	Dante H.
16	Richard Doering
19	Bishop Dave Nagler
20	Amanda Fadden
22	Danielle F.
22	Jason Lawson
29	Jesse L.



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Darlene M-T, Darlene T.

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

July 19	San Diego Pride Parade
July 30	Endowment Committee

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)	