

The Net

March 2026 · Volume 23 · Number 2 · www.stpetersbythesea.org

St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church

Church Phone: 619-224-2894

Preschool Phone: 619-224-1689

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

And we're off. Lent is underway! After a fabulous Jazz Mass, thanks to our own Joe DeMers; after a terrific three weeks of Interfaith Shelter Network, thanks to our own Darlene Morrow-Truver, Sandie Boelter and about 70 other volunteers; after the season of Epiphany... we have entered Lent.

Lent begins each year with the story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness where the devil comes and tries to get under Jesus' skin. Jesus has just heard in his baptism that he *is* undeniably the son of God and then the devil shows up with these words, "*If...if* you are the son of God...do x, y, and z."

This is a voice that is trying to call Jesus to question himself, to get him to doubt himself, to get him to take up the laborious and distracting work of *proving* himself. Whatever you believe about the devil, this is a voice that creeps into our lives, our institutions, and in all the ways that we do life together.

If you were really a good mom, you wouldn't hesitate to get in the car and clean up your kid's latest mess.

If you were really a good Christian you would be doing something for that unhoused man on the corner.

If you were really a good church, you would have bigger programs for young adults, for kids; you would be attracting more people; you would be taking on more in the name of justice and service to those in need. It's a voice that asks us to scrutinize ourselves and then jump through hoops to try to prove ourselves. **The antidote to the devil's jabs is, of all things, contentment.**

The idea of contentment does not get enough air time in the church. By contentment, I don't mean personal happiness or self-centered pleasure. I mean a deep and abiding sense of being settled into yourself, in your

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

life as it is, not because it is particularly good or wonderful but because God looks at you and your life as it is and calls you, “Beloved.”

We hear a lot about how our faith calls us to serve our neighbors, to love our enemies, to DO things but **our faith most certainly also calls us to relax into what God has to say about us**: that we are God’s, that we are beloved, that with us God is well pleased.

This isn’t a call to simply rest on our laurels and sit around eating bonbons. “I’m content after all!” No, it’s about resting not in the anxious energy of, “Am I good enough? How can I prove that I am x, y, or z.” It is about living from the truth that we don’t have to prove a darn thing about ourselves, which subsequently leaves room in our lives to actually respond, not to the jabs of the devil, but the call of the Spirit.

So this Lent, in the midst of a world that is turned on its head and shaken up in so many ways, I encourage you to get serious about connecting each and every day with your own belovedness. **Rest in what God has to say about you, as you are.** The devil has very little power over contented people.

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on February 18, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	January Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$31,487.89	\$33,874.99	<\$2,387.10>
Expense	\$32,581.74	\$33,875.00	\$1,293.26
Difference	<\$1,093.85>		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

January 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$105,149.31	\$260,590.22	\$365,739.53
Income	\$1,054.52	\$100.00	\$1,154.52
Expense	\$0	\$7,522.30	\$7,522.30
Ending Balance	\$106,203.83	\$253,167.92	\$359,371.75

MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to the many people who were involved in making this year's Jazz Mass so successful! It takes a lot of people doing a lot of things—singing, playing an instrument, moving furniture, setting up tables, providing food, washing dishes, sweeping, and more. Everyone who was there contributed to the success of the service. This mass is very close to my heart personally and I can't tell you how much it means to me to have so much support and assistance. Thank you.



From the beginning of creation, God's relationship with us is consistent. He is the supplier of all good things. We know from personal experience that things will not always be good—there will be sorrow, times may be difficult, hope may be scarce, and we may feel buffeted by the world. How do we handle this? Where is God in this? Where is the good in these times?

There is a scripture song that I really like which addresses this: "He Gave Me Beauty For Ashes" based on Isaiah 61:3: *He gave me beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness that we might be trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord; that He might be glorified.*

In the Old Testament, ashes were poured on the head as a sign of mourning, but the Lord says our mourning will be turned to joy. Job is a great example of this: he was afflicted with sickness, and he was confused because he didn't know why since he was righteous before God. At the end, the Lord redeemed him, turning his sorrow to joy and giving him beauty for ashes—blessing with double what he had lost!

Lent is this promise in action: we start in ashes, we mourn, we are heavy hearted, but we cling to our trust in Easter, in the resurrection. And we trust God to keep this promise through the darkness of Lent and throughout our lives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7kV-7o11AI>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates:

- March 29 – Palm Sunday
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday
- April 3 – Good Friday
- April 4 – Children's Easter Event
- April 5 – Easter

INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

Our three weeks of Interfaith Shelter is over for this year. Twenty-one days with 10 guests housed and fed at our Church. St Peter's coordinated with Westminster Presbyterian and All Souls' Episcopal churches, with Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church adding additional overnight host volunteers, to provide the shelter. We used the three rooms on the second floor of the Preschool for the guests stay. This means in statistics that we had 1) 70 volunteers from three churches to ensure our guests had a safe place to be rather than on the streets of our city; 2) 210 bed nights rather than in a hotel or on the streets; 3) 21 dinners, access to showers, and laundry to meet their physical needs; 4) breakfast and lunches available to anyone of them that wished to participate.

All the guests are searching for work and housing and we were able to give them the safety and opportunity to be successful. They have moved to another location at Christ Lutheran Church in Pacific Beach, who stepped forward to fill in for Interfaith Shelter. Our leadership has contributed to make their rotation successful by providing the cots and pads, bedding sets, and laundry/shower supplies which will be returned to us at the end of the rotation at Christ Lutheran. A big thanks for those who stepped up to be Overnight Hosts at Christ Lutheran when the need was identified. The volunteers came from those who had been Overnight Hosts at our location.

SUCCESS: One guest has found employment in El Cajon that includes housing and meals provided by the employer. This is what Interfaith Shelter is all about. Thank you all for your support. You are all the keys to our success.

Sandie Boelter and Darlene Truver

CHRISTIAN SERVICE TEAM NEWS

Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's Super Bowl Sunday food drive for our local food pantry, Loaves & Fishes.



tacklehunger.org

St. Peter's collected 171 cans/boxes of food and \$1,598 in monetary donations!

Thank you to Bob Fode for delivering the food and to our Confirmation Class for decorating!

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Wednesdays in Lent:

March 4, 11, 18, 25

5:00-6:00 p.m. Bible Study

Join us as we take a look at the week's texts.

6:00-6:45 p.m. Soup Supper

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

7:00-7:30 p.m. 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.



TACO NEWS

Special Lenten Offering



**THIRD AVENUE
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATION**

THROUGHOUT LENT YOU CAN DESIGNATE SPECIAL OFFERINGS ON SUNDAYS OR ONLINE FOR TACO - A MINISTRY TO UNHOUSED PEOPLE IN DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO THAT PROVIDES MEALS, CLOTHES, LEGAL AID, MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINICS AND SHOWERS. ALL OFFERINGS COLLECTED ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LENTEN WORSHIP WILL GO TOWARDS THIS SPECIAL APPEAL.

WWW.TACOSD.ORG

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's Preschool friends and families,

Thank you so much to all who donated to our "Share your love" cleaning supply drive. We are so grateful for the support with these items that will help to keep our kiddos and families healthy!

March is a busy month for us. We will be working on enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year, celebrating St. Patrick's Day, our open house is March 20 @ 6 p.m., and hosting a Classics Malt Shop fundraiser (date TBD).

We will be serving ice cream sandwiches, hosting a Scholastic book fair, and welcoming several local businesses to our open house. This event is a highlight of the year; feel free to stop by and see what's happening @SPP.

The local businesses that will be here are Soccer Stars, Point Loma Children's Dentistry, Stronghold Kids, Blue Bird Playspace, Coastal Sage Gardens, Kids on the Point OT, Cans4 Books (with Reef the Whale), Dancehouse, and Empowered Yoga Therapy. We will also be inviting all our newly enrolled families to join in on the fun.

AND - St. Peter's Church & Preschool are hosting a Blood Drive on Friday, March 20, 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in our parking lot.

"May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home." ~ Irish Proverb

Kindly,

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



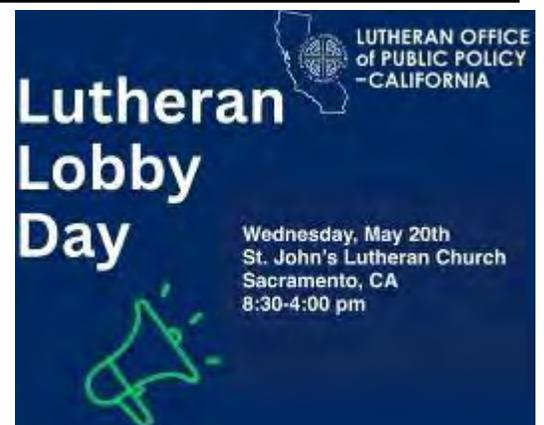
Join our blood drive, hosted by:
 St. Peter's by the Sea
 Church & Preschool
Friday, March 20, 2026
1:00 PM to 6:30 PM
 St. Peters by the Sea Parking Lot
 1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.
 San Diego, CA 92107



PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

Lutheran Lobby Day May 20

Advocates: come one, come all! We have a date for Lobby Day! We are gathering Lutherans and all people of faith in California on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, to meet with California state legislative offices. Stay tuned for much more information in the coming weeks.



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee met on January 28, 2026. Members present included Kevin Box, Richard Doering, Kathy Rahilly (outgoing chair), Valerie Zucker, and Pastor Bekki Lohrmann.

The Financial Secretary's report was presented and for the quarter ending October 31, 2025, there was \$6,070.72 total available for distribution. Matching funds requests were received for: Loaves & Fishes (OBEF); Lutheran Retreats Camps & Conferences (LRCC); Navajo Lutheran Mission; Agape San Diego; and Showers of Blessings.

Below is a summary of the distribution of funds.

Missions and Programs Grants:

- ◇ Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- ◇ LRCC – Luther Glen Farm
- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission

Outreach Grants:

- ◇ Ocean Beach Emergency Fund (Loaves & Fishes)
- ◇ Agape San Diego (Campus Ministry)
- ◇ Border Angels
- ◇ Showers of Blessings, via All Souls' Episcopal Church

Educational Grants:

- ◇ Evan S.
- ◇ Ian S.
- ◇ Hannah Z.
- ◇ Elina P.

Building Grants

- ◇ Building Maintenance

The next meeting will be held on April 22, 2026. If you have matching fund requests for the Endowment Committee to consider, send your checks and information to the church office.

ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

Dear friends of Agape at St. Peter's by the Sea,

Thank you for your continued support of Agape's Building Sustainable Campus Ministry campaign. We are lining up our building permit, contingent on key help from Pacifica Synod, to hopefully start construction this summer!

Your faithful partnership in campus ministry promises to exponentially expand our capacity and deepen our impact for as many as 50 resident-leaders in formation.

In gratitude and bold faith, with love and appreciation,

Pastor Darin Johnson and Agape Community

We want to thank you for generously contributing to the Ocean Beach Mainstreet Association's Annual Awards Celebration on January 22, 2026. Everyone had a fabulous time enjoying great food, drinks, camaraderie, and the opportunity drawing.

All our best and thanks again,

Denny, Tracy, Kristen, Dayna, & the OBMA Board of Directors

BIRTHDAYS

March B-days**Day**

5	Brent Alvar
6	Sam DeMers
6	Jim Grutkowski
7	Hannah Zimmermann
8	Donna Beshgetoor
10	Darlene Thygerson
14	Savannah Silva
18	Cameron Fadden
28	Oliver Sifuentes
29	Tenoch Niemi Garcia Itza

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Darlene M-T, Patty L., Jo, Dante, Diane S.

Our homebound members and those in care facilities:

Keith, Carolyn, Diane B., Carmell

Our members with on-going concerns:

Ann Z., Babette, Carlos, Lora, Duane, 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

EVENTS OF INTEREST

March 4-25	<u>Lenten Wednesdays</u>
	5:00 p.m. Bible Study
	6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Suppers
	7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

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		Biking Group (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)