

# 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](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

*The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" - Ezekiel 37:1-3*

Dear Friends,

Have you experienced God's animating spirit? The passage from Ezekiel is about a people that is dried up, that has no life left in them. God asks the prophet to survey the lifelessness of the dry bones and then asks, "Can these bones live?" The rest of the story is about that prophet being given a word to speak to the bones; a word that animates them, that puts flesh on them, that breathes life into them. I've stuck with the church because here, within this community of trust, from ancient but living stories...I continue to experience God's animating spirit.

When I was 15 it happened for the first time. I was a know-it-all teenager. My social life was hopping, my grades were good, I was involved in sports and music and all kinds of extracurriculars. As far as I was concerned I was very much alive! Then I went to this youth gathering that happened alongside our synod assembly (talk about DRY!) And this life was blown into my lungs, animating me, making me come alive in ways I never could have imagined. I had been very shy and at one point I led a prayer for the entire synod assembly of about 400 adults. Who the heck was this new person? My identity shifted from follower to leader, from unsure to sure-footed, from self-doubting to someone that knew their worth. I experienced the church as a place that breathed this animating breathe into my life.

Years later, after Elijah was born and Marcus and I were between calls and very unsure what was next for us, Sunday worship was like CPR breaths, sustaining us while we waited for a call. Sermons spoke directly to my heart. We met every week with the pastor and a deeply prayerful woman of the congregation as we discerned our way forward learning

and practicing ancient prayers as well as new ones; learning new ways to listen for God’s voice in our lives. It was another time when church to me was breath.

I imagine that you have had experiences like these as well. Maybe you had a life-changing experience out in the world and you came to church and learned language for what had happened to you. Words like *grace*, *forgiveness*, or *resurrection*. Maybe you experienced this animating breath *in* church or *through* church.

Church at its best is a set of lungs that God uses to breathe life in and out. You come to worship on Sunday and hopefully receive an animating spirit into your lungs and then collectively we breathe life out into the world around us. Y’all brought in over \$2,000 for TACO during our Lenten Offerings. We are on track to give over \$7,000 to the local food pantry this year. We sheltered 10 unhoused people, many of whom found solid footing during their time with Interfaith Shelter at our church this winter. At our best, we are a set of lungs, breathing God’s animating spirit into the community around us, just as God’s animating spirit had first been breathed into us.

*Then he said to me: “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breathe, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them.”*

Thanks be to God for this animating breath that we receive in and breathe out!

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on April 15, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	March Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$56,255.34	\$118,735.51	\$101,624.97	\$17,110.54
Expense	\$30,761.86	\$91,590.82	\$101,625.00	<\$10,034.18 >
Difference	\$25,493.48	\$27,144.69		

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

March 2026	General Maint. & Repairs	Sanctuary Remodel	Total Building Funds
Beginning Balance	\$107,408.90	\$256,991.70	\$364,400.60
Income	\$527.93	\$0	\$527.93
Expense	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ending Balance	\$107,936.83	\$256,991.70	\$364,928.53

## MUSIC NOTES

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I recently saw an article entitled “25 Classic Hymns the Church Should Rediscover.” I don’t know what church the author goes to, but nine of the hymns listed are in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal which we use every week. So rediscovery of them is not necessary. My hymn expert (Martha) knew all but 3 of the hymns on the list—that lifetime of Methodist church attendance and choir participation comes in very handy for me on many occasions!

One of the ones on the list is a favorite of hers: “Sing Them Over Again To Me, Wonderful Words of Life.” She has very vivid memories of learning to play this hymn on the piano, the first one she learned, when she was around 10 years old. If you are not familiar with it, it is a very upbeat, uplifting tune (especially when played by a 10-year-old!) with somewhat repetitive lyrics that make it very easy to learn, remember, and sing. “Words of Life,” of course, refers to the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible as a source of spiritual life, truth, and eternal life.

Do you know hymns like this? Hymns you learned early on in your church life or childhood that still resonate with you; hymns you can still sing even though you haven’t sung them in years? One of the wonderful things that Martha brought to our marriage is a vast knowledge of hymns and quite a lot of different hymnals (and our first piano). We have also accumulated more hymnals through the years. We have some that are from the 1920s which contain hymns that her parents loved and sang. Singing hymns like these not only reinforce our faith, they connect us with generations of Christians who came before us, the great cloud of witnesses.

See and hear it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfPObNHY3Ok>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Dear St. Peter's Preschool families and friends,

We have so much to celebrate this month. May 4-8 is Teacher Appreciation Week. We will be celebrating our teachers all week long with flowers, notes, coffee, and lunch provided by Communication Lab ABA on Wednesday and by St. Peter’s by the Sea on Thursday. Our amazing staff makes St. Peter's the magical place it is and give so much of themselves, we look forward to giving back! On May 8, we will be having our Mother's Day Celebration. This is such a fun event: the kiddos sing and give Mom handcrafted gifts and the awesome church volunteers serve yummy treats. We are looking forward to celebrating all the Mother figures in our children's lives. Then we will have graduation on May 29. This event is always so bittersweet. We are so proud of the children and their growth socially, emotionally, and academically, and are so excited to see them thrive in their next journey, but it is so hard to say goodbye. We will definitely be sure to enjoy our remaining time with them and their families.



We have joined General Mills Box Tops program. It is easier than ever. Download the app, scan your receipts, and Box Tops does the rest! Please join us or save your receipts and we'll do the work for you. Drop your receipts at the preschool anytime!

Lastly a huge **thank you** to those that attended the Classics Malt Shop Fundraiser. It is a great night out of food, family, and fun which gives back to our scholarship fund!

Kindly,

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Membership Directory Update

Please make the following update to your 2026 Membership Directory:

Diane Sherwood's Unit # has changed to S-41; the remainder of her address is correct.

### Need a Visit?

If ever you are in the hospital, undergoing recovery from surgery, undergoing a time of discernment or struggle, or just wanting a visit from church, please email [pastor@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:pastor@stpetersbythesea.org) or call Pastor Bekki at (619) 224-2894. Visits are part of a pastor's job and are always available to you. We also have five incredible deacons who make visits, can bring communion, and are wonderful ministers. Never hesitate to ask for a visit!

## TACO NEWS

### Third Avenue Charitable Organization

#### Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026  
Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Location: La Jolla United Methodist Church

Thanks to the support of local chefs, cooks, potters and carvers, TACO's annual luncheon is back! Join us for soup, bread, fellowship and take home some custom bowls from local artists.

Read about last year's Empty Bowls [HERE!](#)

**Empty Bowls** is a grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople in cities around the world to raise money for food-related charities and to feed the hungry in their communities.

#### The way it works:

1. Woodworkers, potters and ceramists in the area donate bowls they've made
2. Local restaurants donate huge pots of soup
3. We gather at [La Jolla United Methodist Church!](#)
4. Guests and donors choose a bowl to take home with them, while enjoying some delicious soup with us, before they leave!

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS

### Vacation Bible School – Day Camp

July 13-17, 2026 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily  
Registration is limited – sign up now!



### Children's Easter Event

Thank you to all of our volunteers, congregation, and community members who came out to our Children's Easter Event! We had 15 volunteers, 51 children, and 56 adults that attended the event. There were so many smiling faces and excited children.

We are looking forward to having fun again in July for VBS. Please remember to register online through our website.



## IN MEMORIAM



A memorial service for Duane B. is scheduled for Saturday, May 23 at 1:00 p.m. with a traditional Lutheran Potluck to follow.

*Celebrating Duane's 91st birthday at St. Peter's in February.*

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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The Endowment Committee met on April 22, 2026. Members included Kevin Box, Richard Doering, Damon Goldstein, Charles Lauger, Richard Montgomery, Valerie Zucker, and Pastor Bekki Lohrmann.

The Financial Secretary's report was presented and for the quarter ending March 31, 2026, there was \$6,182.52 total available for distribution.

Below is a summary of the distribution of funds.

### Missions and Programs Grants:

- ◇ Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Mission
- ◇ LRCC

### Outreach Grants:

- ◇ Ocean Beach Emergence Fund (Loaves & Fishes)
- ◇ Global Refuge
- ◇ Love Thy Neighbor OB – Anchor Station
- ◇ Agape San Diego – SDSU building

### Educational Grants:

- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- ◇ Shea Slaughter
- ◇ Ian Smart
- ◇ Hannah Zimmermann
- ◇ Elina Pepper
- ◇ Noah Wouters

### Building Grants

- ◇ Sanctuary Remodel
- ◇ Building Maintenance (general)

The next meeting will be held in July 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

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Dear Pastor and Congregation,

Thank you so much for the gift of \$1,723.00 (from the Soup-er Bowl of Caring) which was deeply appreciated.

The support from your church is a blessing for us and those we serve.

Happy Easter!

Pat Katka, OBEF Board Member

## BUILDING STEERING TEAM

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### Building Project Update

Here's where we've been:

- Underwent a congregational discernment process where we got clarity about who we are and where we are going
- Hired an Architect: Studio E Architects
- Received 5 conceptual drawings and narrowed it down to two
- Took our top concept to 2 contractors for *rough* pricing to determine feasibility
- Hired capital campaign consultant: Rev. Don Smith, Horizons Stewardship

Here's what you can expect in the next six months:

- Between now and August, the building steering team, alongside council will be working diligently to further develop the design with our architect.
- Pastor Don (Horizons Stewardship) will work with the steering team in creating a case statement that outlines the contours and impact of our project answering the questions "why" and "why now?"
- In mid-August we will have a First Impressions Gathering where we reveal the vision for this project
- From there we will undergo a feasibility study to determine our capacity for raising the necessary funds
- We will host a series of meetings, home visits, one-on-one meetings, and a survey will go out so that hopefully 100% of our congregation will get to be a part of the feedback process.
- By early fall, our campaign consultant will know what our giving capacity range will be (the amount of money we can expect to raise).
- Then, if all goes as planned, we will launch our capital campaign in October, culminating in mid-November, before Thanksgiving.
- It is our hope that we will have funds coming in and construction documents in hand by the start of the new year so that we can submit all necessary documents for permitting, which will be the first step in beginning construction.

As always, the building steering team consists of Scott Walls, Pastor Bekki, Darlene Morrow-Truver, Richard Nielsen, Colleen Doering, Jim Grutkowski, and Allison Crews.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE TEAM NEWS

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This year during Lent, St. Peters Christian Service Committee asked for donations for the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) – a shared ministry at First Lutheran Church downtown.

### **St. Peters donated \$2,028.37 during the Lenten Season. Many thanks to all those that contributed.**

What exactly does TACO do?

Mission Statement: TACO is a community drawn together to support the dignity, health, and well-being of people among us experiencing homelessness and poverty.

#### **Services provided include:**

##### **Community Impact Mail Services**

- TACO provides a reliable mailing address for over 1,600 individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Access to mail allows people to receive identification documents, benefit information, medical correspondence, and employment opportunities.
- Cell phones and other devices are charged during open hours (T-Fri 9-1)
- A social worker is available by appointment

##### **Meals Program**

- In 2025, TACO served 35,257 hot meals to members of the community.
- Each week TACO provides over 500 hot meals:
  - o Monday Dinner
  - o Wednesday Breakfast
  - o Friday Breakfast – **St. Peter’s volunteers take a turn serving breakfast the first Friday of the month (please join us – let the office know if you can attend).**

##### **Mobile Shower Program**

- TACO currently provides approximately 60 showers each month through the mobile shower program, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays.

##### **Clothing Distribution**

- The Wednesday Clothing Room serves approximately 85 people every week. Guests receive clean clothing, shoes, and basic essentials that help them stay safe and comfortable.

## INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK

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Thank you for your support of this ministry over the past year. During our recent rotation at St. Peter’s, we were able to house 10 guests for 21 days. With the partnership of three churches and the dedication of 70 volunteers, this effort reflects a truly remarkable community commitment.

Our guests were given a period of stability and respite—no longer needing to worry about where to sleep, how to keep their belongings safe, or how to access meals, showers, and laundry. This sense of security allowed them to focus on essential next steps such as job searches and securing long-term housing—things many of us take for granted. Just as important, they were welcomed into an environment filled with compassion, dignity, and care.

As the Beach Area rotation came to a close, we saw meaningful progress: a mother in a family of three secured employment, one older gentleman found permanent housing, and another guest obtained both a job and a place to live. These outcomes highlight how vital temporary stability is in helping individuals move forward. Achievements like these would be extremely difficult without the consistent support provided during the three-month rotation.

In addition to the Beaches rotation, similar programs take place in North County, East County, South Bay, and the Clairemont area, extending this impact across the region.

Thank you for helping offer not just assistance, but hope—and for sharing Christ’s love in such a tangible way.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand next year’s program by adding a fourth week and finding a fourth partner church, in addition to All Souls’ Episcopal and Westminster Presbyterian. Please keep this program and people in your prayers and we look forward to this again next February.

—Sandie Boelter and Darlene Truver

## THANK YOUs

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We would like to thank Flowers of Point Loma for providing the beautiful altar flower bouquets each week (at a significant discount) and the lovely lilies we used to make our Easter flower cross and decorate the sanctuary.

Please keep them in mind for any of your floral needs and be sure to let them know that St. Peter’s by the Sea sent you.

## BIRTHDAYS

### May B-days

#### Day

4	Lilli S.
5	Alexis BG
11	Diane Sherwood
12	Dean Bennett
12	Penny O.
16	Allison Crews
16	Marty Kain
17	Bob Fode
17	Charles Lauger
18	Maya Slaughter
19	Jane Christensen
24	Gabi Hughes
25	Pat Hendrickson
25	Fletcher Miller
28	Steven Silva



## PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

The annual Pacifica Synod Assembly is coming! Once again, the main event will be an “A-Zoom-bly” on June 20 in which St. Peter’s voting delegates (Colleen and Richard Doering) will attend with Pastor Bekki.

Additionally, there are regional in-person gatherings prior to the Assembly and everyone is invited.

**Regional Gathering for San Diego** will take place on May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Clairemont Lutheran church, with lunch provided. **ALL are invited to the Regional Gatherings: rostered persons, laypersons, voting members, and non-voting members.** The cost for attendance is \$25 per person. Registration for the San Diego gathering closes May 2. Register [here](#) to attend the San Diego Regional Gathering.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Patty L., Jo, Darlene T.

**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****EVENTS OF INTEREST**

May 4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 16	Pacifica Synod Regional Gathering
May 29	Preschool Graduation

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

Sundays	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 a.m.	Worship Service, live-streamed
	7:00 p.m.	AI-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
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)