

The Net

June 2025 · Volume 22 · Number 5 · 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,

These past few months have been a flurry of activity that have had us diving into discussion and through about how we are being called to steward our sanctuary into the future. Thank you to everyone who has shown up for the conversation in any and all ways!

The goal of this sanctuary remodel is to create a worship space for holy encounter; to clear the space of things that hinder our worship and to make choices that will enhance our ability to encounter the good things that God has for us in worship. The goal is not the building. The goal is the worship and the relationship we form with the God whom we worship in this building.

On May 10, we had a crew of St. Peter's folks who joined in for the Church Crawl, exploring the way other churches have created spaces for holy encounter. Here are the spaces that we visited and the take aways that were discussed. Feel free to look these churches up and explore the spaces online.

St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church



Reflections by our members: We loved that when you walked in, there was a prominent font and a direct line from font to table to the cross, with the pulpit also featuring prominently. You knew instantly the value placed on the Word,

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

Sacraments, and the people gathered. We loved the warmth of the wood ceiling, the natural light, the presence of lush greenery, and the unapologetic beauty of the space. The chancel was raised and distinct but didn't feel like a separate room.

Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church



Reflections by our members: This space was nothing like us! The table and chancel were completely off limits to the congregation, the font was covered and only brought out for baptisms. It was entirely ornate, which we did not resonate with. That said, we were in complete awe of the intentionality, beauty, and theological integrity of the space. You felt saturated by the Word of God.

First Lutheran Church, Downtown



Reflections by our members: We appreciated the simplicity of this space. The font was prominent upon entry with flowing running water (not pictured) and the place of the Word and the Meal were central. Skylights allowed for natural light without distraction of windows in a busy neighborhood. We noticed that the space utilized wood, brick, tile, metal, and desired more continuity of materials and wanted the cross to play a more central role in the design. This space is used for a variety of purposes and the group did not resonate with the multifunctional feel.

The main takeaway of the day: Lutherans sometimes struggle with beauty because it feels superfluous and a bit too fancy for our humble taste. It can feel incongruous with our call to care for the poor. But beauty and fancy décor are not the same, and you can create beauty in a way that does not reek of money. The folks gathered felt deeply appreciative of spaces that prioritized **beauty, which seems to catch not only our eyes but our hearts.**

Join us on June 22 after worship for a final congregational forum in the fellowship hall to receive a report on what we have heard and to glean and final feedback.

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on May 8, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	April Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$32,835.41	\$162,817.98	\$132,116.68	\$30,701.30
Expense	\$29,791.43	\$124,345.32	\$132,116.72	<\$7,771.40>
Difference	\$3,043.98	\$38,472.66		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

	April 2025
Beginning Balance	\$137,247.39
Income	\$14.65
Expense	\$400.00
Ending Balance	\$136,862.04

ELCA NEWS

May 8, 2025

Dear church,

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in praying for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV. We rejoice with the people of the Roman Catholic Church, especially those in our communities, as they joyfully receive their new shepherd.

Today we witnessed the historic election of the first Augustinian and the first U.S.-born pope—only the second to come from the Americas. Thus we share with him both context and theological roots (Martin Luther was also an Augustinian). We pray that this will provide us, as Catholics and as Lutherans, with an opportunity to strengthen our visible unity in Christ through dialogue and cooperation for the life of the world.

In his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the new pope extended the blessing of Pope Francis, saying: "God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace."

We pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain Pope Leo XIV for the ministry to which he has been called, and will strengthen us all in our vocations as bridge-builders and as witnesses to God's love for all people and creation.

In Christ,
 Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
 Presiding Bishop
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. Peter's families and Friends,

I want to take a moment and thank Miss Paola for her 4 years of service to St. Peter's Preschool. She joined us during Covid-Protocol and right after finishing her degree. She has been an incredible asset to St. Peter's Preschool, the kiddos, and our families.



June is here! We are looking forward to welcoming back a few St. Peter's alumni for the summer months. It is such a joy to see how these kiddos have grown and spend the summer with them. We will also be starting the month with water safety, a visit from the lifeguards (Thank you Dana!) and pool days. Then we will spend the week getting ready for our Father's Day celebration!



We are looking forward to our Father's Day event and so grateful to the preschool committee for hosting the event and providing the opportunity to make some awesome memories! We will then head into Ocean/Beach and Summer content for the kiddos. Happy Summer!

Kindly,

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

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

OB Church Camp

Register Soon! Camp is Filling Up Quickly!

Dates: June 16-20
Time: 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran Church

This year, we're partnering with several local churches and St. Peter's will be hosting "OB Church Camp" the week of June 16-20, with the theme of "Waves of Gratitude."

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, July, and August. This is a well-deserved break for you as a family and for our teachers. Enjoy this time as families and return in September refreshed 🥰 and ready for a new year.

OBEF NEWS

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry Update

St. Peter's has been actively supporting Loaves and Fishes—officially known as Ocean Beach Emergency Food (OBEF)—a local food pantry program which addresses food insecurity. OBEF is an important outreach program in our community.

On Saturday, May 31, St. Peter's hosted the 2nd annual fundraiser dinner, *Waves of Generosity*, with assistance from Jensen's Foods (955 Catalina Blvd at Talbot). The Food Collection Drive here at church in April resulted in numerous boxes of food being transported by Bob and Sue Fode.

Monetary donations have also been made by members of the congregation and by the Endowment Committee. Our goal is to provide OBEF at least \$5000 annually. In addition to \$2000 from the Endowment Committee, we have nearly \$1300 dollars of member donations just over the first 4 months of 2025, putting us on track to meet our annual goal.

The food pantry assists over 1,000 people monthly in the local 92106, 92107, and 92110 zip codes. More information is on their website <https://sdloavesfishes.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renaissance Singers Concert

You're invited to an afternoon of sung music. The La Jolla Renaissance Singers will perform at St. Peter's by the Sea on Saturday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m.

Since 1963, the La Jolla Renaissance Singers (formerly the UCSD Madrigal Singers) have been bringing the finest of early European choral music to the San Diego area. Based in La Jolla, the elite choir draws members from across the county.

Free-will offering accepted.

THANK YOUs

Dear St. Peter's Preschool,

On behalf of the Point Loma High School Girl's Water Polo team, we are incredibly grateful for all the support you have given us.

Your support has aided our team in achieving our seasonal goals and helped us grow.

We are forever grateful for all that you've done for us.

Sincerely,
Kennedy T.

The Point Loma High School Water Polo Team

MUSIC NOTES

Do you ever feel like the ground you are standing on has shifted—and not by an earthquake? Things you once believed to be established and true have been tossed aside. Relationships that you counted on are broken or people have left you. You can no longer predict or plan for the future, let alone get through today.

In times of grief or uncertainty we may feel lost, unmoored, or unconnected. We don't understand what is happening, we don't know what is coming or what to do. These are the times that I find hymns to be most helpful. They remind me of previous times when I felt that way, and how God saw me through them. They recall the saints in my life that helped me through difficult times. And most importantly, I remember that I have someone to turn to for comfort and help—I am not alone. The image of shepherd Jesus holding a lamb in His arms is very popular, perhaps because sometimes we, too, need to be held in Jesus's arms—close to His heart.

One of my favorite hymns for difficult times, times of uncertainty or anxiety, is *Near to the Heart of God*: “There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God...” “There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God...” “There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God...”

“O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before Thee, near to the heart of God.”

Perhaps you, too, may need some comfort—you can hear this hymn at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXzTMDHvdfg>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee met on April 23, 2025. Members present included Gail Bennett, Kevin Box, Richard Doering, Richard Montgomery, Kathy Rahilly, Darlene Thygerson, and Pastor Bekki Lohrmann. Council President Pat Hendrickson attended as guest.

The Financial Secretary's report was presented and for the quarter ending March 31, 2025, there was \$5,860.04 total available for distribution. Matching funds requests were received for Lutheran Social Services/Southern California, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Global Refuge.

Below is a summary of the distribution of funds.

Missions and Programs Grants:

- ◇ Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- ◇ TheOasis - Pacifica Synod
- ◇ ELCA Disaster Response – LA Wildfires
- ◇ Lutheran Social Services
- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- ◇ Global Refuge

Outreach Grants:

- ◇ Ocean Beach Emergency Food (Loaves & Fishes)
- ◇ Mama's Kitchen
- ◇ Casa Cornelia
- ◇ Bread for the World

Educational Grants:

- ◇ Evan S.
- ◇ Ian S.
- ◇ Hannah Z.
- ◇ Elina P.
- ◇ Agape San Diego

Building Grants

- ◇ Building Maintenance (general)

The next meeting will be held on July 30, 2025. 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 Pastor Bekki and Congregation,

I would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation to Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Your support plays a crucial role in helping us assist our neighbors who are facing challenging times.

Your gift of \$547.00 to date, is a lifeline for our neighbors who are struggling with homelessness, mental health, or putting food on the table. Because of your kindness, we can provide essential emergency services such as food, clothing, and shelter to those in need, offering them hope and support when they need it most.

With sincere gratitude,

Dr. LaSharnda Beckwith
President & CEO
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

Dear St. Peter's by the Sea,

I want to personally thank you for your thoughtful gift of \$265 to Mama's Kitchen. Your gift will help us prepare and deliver more medically tailored meals, providing support to the most vulnerable members of our community.

Every dollar we receive provides free nutrition services to individuals and families affected by HIV, cancer, congestive heart failure, type 2 diabetes, and other critical illness. As shared by one of our clients, "thanks to Mama's Kitchen, I know there is a balanced meal for me every day. My doctors have told me how important it is for me to eat healthy and not lose weight, so this food goes a long way."

Since 1990, Mama's Kitchen has served over 12 million meals and helped tens of thousands of San Diegans through their illness. Thank you for supporting our mission and helping us keep up the capacity to serve more critically ill neighbors in need.

Sincerely,

Eva Matthews, MPH
Chief Executive Officer

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

June is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer's or other dementia. Alzheimer's is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. Worldwide, more than 55 million people are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

10 warning signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's or dementia include:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks
4. Confusion with time or place
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
8. Decreased or poor judgment
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities
10. Changes in mood and personality

If you notice any of the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's disease in yourself or someone you know, schedule an appointment with your doctor.

Go **Purple**! Purple is the official color of the Alzheimer's movement. Wear and share purple throughout June to spread awareness and invite others to join the fight to end Alzheimer's.

BIRTHDAYS

June B-days

Day

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Lora, 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

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.



IN MEMORIUM



A memorial service for Bobby Silva is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Peter's by the Sea, with reception following.

ST. PETER'S BY THE SEA LUTHERAN CHURCH
1371 SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD.
SAN DIEGO, CA 92107-3845

EVENTS OF INTEREST

June 7	Renaissance Singers Concert
June 13	Preschool Father's Day Event
June 16-20	OB Church Camp

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