

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

Dear people,

We've recently heard Jesus absolutely challenging command to "Love your enemies and do good to those who hurt you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who mistreat you." Oof.

I've been wrestling with this text a great deal in recent months (maybe years) and would like to propose some practicalities for what it looks like to love our enemies, using my relationship with my eldest son as the basis of the conversation.

My eldest son is six. He is a loving, caring boy who is going to grow up with an entirely inflated sense of himself because of how much I think of him. But he is also, along with all other six-year-old children, rather narcissistically oriented and regularly forgets the importance of manners. He also hates just about everything we put on the table except meatloaf and lets us know it.

So, some nights, Elijah is my enemy. He leaves dirty socks and snack food where he should not, he speaks poorly to us, he is demanding and entitled and wants to spend his time tormenting his little brother by snatching away whatever his brother has that is presently making him happy.

Loving this little enemy does not look like being nice to him or giving in to what he wants; nor does it look like allowing his bad behavior to rule the dinner table, the bathtub or the play room. It looks like two things happening at the same time. It looks like telling him the truth about his behavior and making him dinner.

Loving this little enemy looks like putting boundaries around him. Love looks like holding him accountable, because anything less than holding him accountable for his actions will yield a person who will have no chance at growing into the best version of himself, encouraging a distortion in his perception whereby he believes he is of more value than someone else. Love looks like insisting that he try again and this time with manners. Love looks like holding up a hand and saying no when he behaves unkindly. It can even look sometimes like removing him from the space where the rest of us are gathered until he can behave in a way that is not harmful to others. Love can look like redistributing the toys

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

so that he does not have all of them while Isaak has none, even if it makes him stark-raving mad... so mad sometimes that he says he's going to ask Santa Claus for a new mom!

All the while, Marcus and I are stirring the soup on the stove, chopping vegetables, and pouring milk for his supper because Love calls us always to be interested in the wellbeing of our enemy. When Love takes up residence in me, it has me operating on multiple fronts: I hold boundaries and tell hard truths, while making beds and washing clothes and even the tiny body that drives me so crazy some evenings.

When our enemies have come to their senses, we can meet them with tenderness and warmth and affirmation. When our enemies are still seeking our demise or the demise of those God holds dear, Love looks like truth-telling and accountability while continuing to see the humanity even in our deepest enemies. Even they need supper each night, and while you may not be the one stirring the soup for them, you and I, as followers of Jesus, are going to fight even for their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... even when that fight is not reciprocated. This is the distinguishing mark of Christ's love.

Now get lovin'!

Pastor Bekki

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee met on January 22, 2025. Members present included Kevin Box, Richard Doering, Kathy Rahilly, Darlene Thygerson, Pastor Bekki Lohrmann and guests, Allison Crews and Pat Hendrickson.

Elections of Officers was held:

Chair: Kathy Rahilly

Financial Secretary: Richard Doering

Recording Secretary: Gail Bennett

The Financial Secretary's report was presented and for the quarter ending December 31, 2024, there was \$5,790.08 total available for distribution. Matching funds requests were received for: Loaves and Fishes: Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Helene; Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences; Navajo Lutheran School; Agape House; and Showers of Blessing.

Below is a summary of the distribution of funds.

Missions and Programs Grants:

- ◇ Third Avenue Charitable Organization
- ◇ LRCC - Luther Glen Farm
- ◇ Global Refuge
- ◇ Lutheran Disaster Response – L.A. Wildfires

Outreach Grants:

- ◇ Ocean Beach Emergence Fund (Loaves & Fishes)
- ◇ LSS – Fire Response
- ◇ Jewish Family Services
- ◇ Showers of Blessing

Educational Grants:

- ◇ Evan Smart
- ◇ Ian Smart
- ◇ Agape San Diego
- ◇ Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission

Building Grants

- ◇ Education Building Maintenance

The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2025. If you have matching fund requests for the Endowment Committee to consider, send your checks and information to the church office.

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on February 13, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer :

Budget Recap	January Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$31,993.82	\$31,993.82	\$33,029.17	<\$1,035.35>
Expense	\$31,024.61	\$31,024.61	\$33,029.18	<\$2,004.57>
Difference	\$969.21	\$969.21		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

	January 2025
Beginning Balance	\$134,281.72
Income	\$628.62
Expense	\$714.56
Ending Balance	\$134,195.78

MUSIC NOTES

O Sacred Head Now Wounded is based on a long medieval Latin poem often attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux (1091–1153), now attributed to the medieval poet Arnulf of Leuven (died 1250). Both these men were members of the religious order known as the Cistercians—a branch off the Benedictines—an order that followed a strict monastic life of prayer, labor, and austerity.

Earlier spirituality in Western Europe emphasized Christ’s divinity, primarily portraying Him as a victorious warrior over the powers of Hell. However, the Cistercians focused on divine love, as demonstrated in the Incarnation and revealed in Christ’s suffering. They held that Jesus’ love for us was so great that He *chose* to suffer for us, identifying with humanity’s weakness and suffering and providing forgiveness of sins. Thus, from Christ we learn compassion and mercy from both a human and divine perspective. We can still see these two aspects or interpretations of Jesus in Christian faiths today.

The original poem consisted of seven stanzas addressing the various members of the crucified body: feet, knees, hands, pierced side, breast, heart, and face/head. Throughout, Christ’s suffering is portrayed as the ultimate expression of divine love, and it calls for a response of love from us in return. “As we are loved, so we love.”

The season of Lent is an appropriate time to meditate on Christ, His Divine and Human natures, His sufferings on our behalf, the love that prompted them, and what that love has accomplished on our behalf. It is always an appropriate time for us to respond to that love by loving others, especially in these days of increasing discord and division.

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Dear St. Peter's friends and Families,

Thank you so much to all who donated to our "Show your Love" cleaning supply drive! We have Clorox wipes for at least 6 months and that is saying something. Looking into March we have Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday and St. Patrick's Day to celebrate!



We will be having a fundraiser at Classics Malt shop in March. The date is TBD so keep an eye out for it in the Weekly Happenings.

We will also be doing an open house on Friday, March 14, 6-7 p.m. We will have a Scholastic book fair, ice cream sundaes, and 12 local family-oriented businesses here as well. It should be a wonderful night. Stop by if you would like to see what the preschool is up to! The participating businesses are: SD Gymnastics, Communication Lab aba, Blue Bird Play Space, Ocean Beach Speech, Dancehouse, Stronghold Gym, If I was a Bird Yoga, Coastal Sage Garden, Cans4Books, and Empowered Therapy Yoga.

We are also so excited to partner with Cans4Books for the month of March. Please save and bring your aluminum cans to SPP and we will turn them in to Cans4Books so they can get more books into kids hands in our community. Help us feed the whale!



Cans4books.org

Blessings!

Dori Hoadley

Director, St. Peter's Preschool

preschool@stpetersbythesea.org

619-224-1689

ASH WEDNESDAY

We begin our Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with a smudge of ash on our forehead and a call to repent in our heart. We desire to make this a time to be with the Lord in a special way, with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time to reflect on our baptism and to follow Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death through the cross and resurrection.

INTERFAITH SHELTER NETWORK (IFSN)

We have completed our rotation for IFSN. We took on an additional week this year and the support of our congregation and our partner, All Souls', was again incredible. We also had the support of several faith communities as we had the additional week. We thank Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Immaculate Conception (in Old Town) for helping with dinners and overnight hosts. It was a wonderful collaboration.

The volunteers were endless and helped by preparing the rooms before the guests arrived (repairs, painting, cleaning, decorating), food shopping, setting up the actual rooms the day the guests arrived, greeting the guests, providing welcome bags, making dinners, donating items, sleeping overnight as a host, hosting during the weekends so the guests didn't have to leave, and breaking down, cleaning/washing and storing items for next year.

We were close to full each night, hosting 10 to 12 guests at any point in time. The guests were so very appreciative of a warm welcome, food, a safe place to lay their head, showers, and laundry. The case worker from TACO was very helpful and responsive.

We had at least two guests find more permanent housing and one guest was able to find a job. The idea is to provide the basic needs so the clients can spend their days looking for more permanent housing and working or finding work.

We had a very successful rotation and want to thank everyone involved for their hospitality, hard work, and support.

Darlene and Sandie
Co-Chairs

WORSHIP TEAM NEWS

Wednesdays in Lent:

5:00-6:00 Liturgy and Life

Have you ever wondered why we sing the same stuff week after week in worship? "This is the feast of victory for our God? Kyrie Eleison? Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world?" Come for an hour to dive in to these ancient texts and figure out what they have to do with everyday life!

6:00-7:00 Soup Supper

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

7:00-7:30 Prayer Around the Cross

Gather around the cross for prayer, singing and lighting candles as we pray together for the needs of the world this Lent.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

February Council Highlights:

- Received and approved recommendations from the Gift Policy Task Force for undesignated and reallocated memorial funds.
 - Reallocated funds are those previously designated but no longer needed for a specific purpose.
 - Funds were approved for Global Refuge, St. Peter's Building Fund, and Interfaith Shelter.
- Discussed Space Use generally. One of the goals of our three-year plan is a written space use policy. A small task force has been named to prepare a written policy for presentation to and approval by Council.

Jazz Mass

Join your friends & family at St. Peter's by the Sea for our 3rd annual Jazz Mass on *The Transfiguration of Our Lord* Sunday, March 2.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Sock Drive

During the month of March, St. Peter's is collecting new, white socks to be distributed through OBEF (Loaves & Fishes) and through Showers of Blessing.

For more information, speak with Liz Medina

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The purpose of a prayer shawl is to give someone a tangible example of God's love and care. The shawl is made in prayer, and of soft yarn so the recipient can wrap up in it and feel God's arms around him or her.

St. Peter's Prayer Shawl Ministry has resumed. If you know how to knit or crochet, or would like to learn, please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, speak with Solveig Fuentes.

ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

St. Peter's,

On behalf of Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, we would like to recognize and thank you for your generous donation of \$1,409 towards Women's Homeless Services.

Your kind donation enables our team to be your hands and voice in service and support of the hungry and homeless, the vulnerable and marginalized, who seek assistance and accompaniment.

We pray that our good Lord keeps you, your loved ones, our country, and the world safe.

Sincerely,
Appaswamy "Vino" Pajanor
Chief Executive Officer

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$347 to Global Refuge.

On behalf of all of us at Global Refuge I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your gift. Thank you for supporting our long-term work of welcome by creating safer, more rewarding realities for those we serve.

With gratitude,
Andrew Steele
Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

Dear members of St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran,

Thank you for the gift of \$100 and for your dedication to helping those suffering from food insecurity.

Ove the years, your church has been one of our main supporters.

May God bless all of you for your generosity and community spirit.

Sincerely,
Pat Katka,
Board Member, OBEF

TACO NEWS

Empty Bowls Is Returning!

Over the years, Empty Bowls has been one of TACO's biggest fundraising events and it's returning this May! More information to come, stay tuned!



A Message from our Synod Bishop:The Power We Share

On a rainy February day, nearly 150 people gathered in San Diego to reflect on what it means to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ at our Southern border in these days. It was the Day of Theological Reflection. The format was a worship service in two parts. We gathered and listened to God's Word and three excellent presentations at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Then we shared the Holy Meal at the border wall and were sent to be God's love made real to our neighbors. If you couldn't make it, you missed a powerful day!

Some of the power of this event was the presence of Indigenous students studying for ministry through the TEIL (Theological Education for Indigenous Leaders) program. Their songs, actions, comments, and prayers rooted our discussion in a much longer and more complex story. The border crisis that we currently face is born of colonialism that has caused grave suffering to Indigenous people in the past and continues to do so in the present. The truth of this borderland is rooted in a deeper story that must be addressed openly and honestly.

Listening to this history, seeing the trajectory of how we are treating immigrants in our nation, and then standing in front of two 30' tall iron walls can make us feel powerless. What are 150 people singing, praying, and sharing bread and wine against successive administrations demonizing our neighbors? What power do we have to change the course of this dehumanizing machine?

Simply put, we have the power of love. I am not speaking of sentimentality or some naïve utopic dream, but the love of enemies that Jesus possessed and gives freely to his followers. It is the "turn the other cheek" love that chooses neither violence nor flight, but a refusal to be a victim or a perpetrator. (Luke 6) It is the love that takes a stranger to the inn and promises to pay whatever it takes to heal him. (Luke 10) It is the love that looks down from an unjust cross and prays, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing." (Luke 23) This is strong love. This love opens heaven on earth.

If you are like me, you may be wondering how to respond to all the pain and suffering that surrounds us and is within us. The news keeps getting worse day by day. The answer that I find is in the teachings and example of Jesus the Christ. He and his disciples surely knew what oppression felt like, and yet, he offered a way of love rooted in his relationship with God. Let's pick up the forgotten teachings and dust off the life-giving spiritual practices that have served God's people for millennia. Let us place love at the center of everything that we do and say. The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Peace,
Bishop Dave Nagler

HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

Autoimmune Disorders - What's That All About?

A healthy immune system defends the body against disease and infection; if the immune system malfunctions and the body's immune system can no longer differentiate between its own cells and foreign cells, it mistakenly attacks healthy cells, tissues, and organs. These are called autoimmune diseases that attack and can affect any part of the body, weakening bodily function and even turning life-threatening.

There are over 100 known autoimmune disorders. The exact cause of autoimmune diseases is unknown, but they're likely due to a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Some of the more common examples are systemic lupus erythematosus, Rheumatoid arthritis, Multiple sclerosis, Type I diabetes, GI disorders (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, celiac disease), Thyroid diseases, Graves Disease, Myasthenia gravis, and Scleroderma. Some changes to the immune system can specifically affect the inner ear resulting in tinnitus, vertigo, or progressive hearing loss.

Although there are therapies to manage the symptoms, autoimmune diseases are **chronic and incurable**. They are extremely challenging, both in terms of the symptoms they present and the difficult road to diagnosis, sometimes even taking several years to properly diagnose. Common symptoms in most AI disorders include fatigue, joint pain/swelling, skin problems, abdominal/intestinal problems, swollen glands, rash, sensitivity to light, fever, hair loss, unexplained weight changes, Others include stomach issues, cardiac irregularities, unexplained seizures, and more.

Living with an autoimmune disease can bring feelings of confusion, anxiety, uncertainty, and more. If you have one or more of these, you are not alone in these feelings nor this journey. With proper care, support, and a positive attitude, it is possible to lead a fulfilling life. There are resources available to help you every step of the way.

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
24	Davy Lowe
28	Oliver Sifuentes

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Lora, Delfino, Carlos, Darlene M-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

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 5	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday
March 12	Lenten Wednesdays Begin:	
	5:00 p.m.	Liturgy & Life Study
	6:00 p.m.	Lenten Soup Suppers
	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Around the Cross

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
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 (rescheduled for Feb. 7 this month)
Second Saturday		Bicycling Group (time & location varies)
Third Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)