

# 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

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Dear Friends,

Today, we're talking about the importance of getting your butt to church.

But to get at this, I want to share with you the complexities in my brain that often prevent me from saying, "It's time to get your butt to church."

1. The church has been exposed time and time again as being a place of dishonesty, fraud, and abuse. So, whereas the pastors who started our church here at St. Peter's inherited a church that was naturally endowed a great deal of cultural trust, the church we have today is a church that is not a de-facto safe place. Which means that I usually don't actually go around telling people to get their butt in church.
2. The church of my grandparents and even maybe the church of my parents did not have to square with the reality of religious pluralism quite like we do today. We live in a world of vast religious diversity and call me a heretic, but I do not have any interest in expressing my faith by way of hegemonic power that belittles or demeans the faith of people who are different than me. I believe in Jesus and the power of his love *and* I believe in the inherent value and validity of the faith of my Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, and Buddhist neighbors. Which means that I usually don't actually go around telling people to get their butt in church.
3. The church has a long history of using guilt and shame to achieve its goals of getting people in the pews. We've looked down our noses at people who only come on Christmas and Easter, who choose sports over worship on Sunday morning, and I *hate* that sentiment. I have no interest in guilting or shaming anyone to do anything. It simply isn't how Jesus operated. Which means that I usually don't actually go around telling people to get their butt in church.

Clearly, there are reasons to pause when considering inviting someone to church. But there are also incredibly compelling reasons in the face of all of this to do just that: to invite someone to join you in getting their butt in church!

## 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

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Joe DeMers, Music Minister

[Music.minister@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto: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

**I believe that now is the time to get serious about asking yourself, “Am I showing up *within* and *for* my faith community in a way that aligns with how much the gospel means to me?” It’s time to get serious about not just keeping this treasure for yourself but asking yourself, “Are there people in my life who would benefit from being a part of the church—who need the hope, the love, the promise of the resurrection? Who would benefit from a church family to love and support them? Do I have people in my life who are Christians in their heart but they’ve lost their way to being a part of a faith community?” What would it look like for you to invite them or assist them in getting connected back up to a faith community?**

**Because the work of the church is vital in these days.** Isolation is an epidemic, hopelessness and anger continue to be on the rise, the needs of our world and our community are growing as migrants face uncertain futures and the unhoused population grows steadily, and once-foundational structure to support these populations are crumbling. The gospel of Jesus Christ speaks directly into each one of these realities providing hope, promise, and a call to act. I believe in the church and the work it does in the world. And so, even though there are a lot of good reasons not to get your butt in church, I am going to invite people to do just that...not so our numbers will soar, but because the church’s work is needed in these days for the life of the world.

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

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The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on April 10, 2025. The following reports are from the treasurer:

Budget Recap	March Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$60,730.50	\$129,982.57	\$99,087.51	\$30,895.06
Expense	\$31,691.40	\$94,553.89	\$99,087.54	<\$4,533.65>
Difference	\$29,039.10>	\$35,448.68		

### All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign

	March 2025
Beginning Balance	\$138,983.97
Income	\$132.26
Expense	\$1,868.84
Ending Balance	\$137,247.39

## MUSIC NOTES

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I don't know about you, but I enjoy looking at the "before and after" pictures of many renovation projects. They are often inspiring, even though I rarely, if ever, act on that inspiration. The before pictures show us how dark and dreary a room is, with useless space and impairments to the "flow" of the room. The after pictures usually reveal a much brighter, more cheerfully optimized space; somewhere we would want to spend our time. So it is with Easter, we have a before—40 days of Lent—and an after—50 days of Eastertide, from Easter to Pentecost.

St. Augustine explains this in his *Exposition on Psalm 148*. "We have established also the celebration of two seasons, that before Easter and that after Easter. That which is before Easter signifies tribulation...that...after Easter, signifies the bliss in which we shall hereafter be." According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "...this time is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia!" As Pope St. John Paul II said, "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

Eastertide is not just for Catholics, it is for all Christians. All those who celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, His victory over death, and the new life God has given us through the sacrifice of Christ. It is a joyful time—full of light, music, praise, and NO fasting!

One of my favorite choir anthems is an ebullient and uplifting depiction of Eastertide, *With A Voice of Singing* by Martin Shaw. We have done this here at St. Peter's. You can hear it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2Nv3ya8IEk>

"With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!  
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered His people, Alleluia!  
O be joyful in God, all ye lands  
O sing praises to the honor of His name, make His praise to be glorious  
With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!"

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

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The annual Pacifica Synod Assembly will be held May 16-17 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point.

Solveig F. and Jim G. will be attending along with Pastor Bekki as voting members for St. Peter's by the Sea. We ask that you keep them, and all attending, in your prayers.

## IN MEMORIUM

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We remember those who have recently died and keep their families in our prayers.

Christian sympathy is offered to the family and friends of Bobby S. who died on March 27. Bobby attended St. Peter's as a child and when he returned to San Diego as an adult, he returned to St. Peter's with his family.

A memorial service will be held at St. Peter's on Saturday, June 7th, at 10:00 a.m.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Dear St. Peter's families and friends,

Thank you so much to all who supported our preschool through Reef the Whale and our Classics Malt shop fundraisers last month. Cans4Books donated \$200+ worth of books to our Library and Classics Malt Shop donated \$500 to our scholarship fund! We are so happy to be partnering with these amazing local businesses.



In May we will be celebrating Moms, Teachers, and Grads. Our Mother's Day event will be on May 9 and we will be hearing the kiddos sing and enjoying snacks and fellowship. Teacher appreciation week is the 2nd week of May and we will be celebrating our incredible staff. We'll be having lunch provided by the church and are so looking forward to it! May 30 we will have our Graduation Ceremony. This is such a bittersweet time of year—we love these kiddos and are sad to see them head off to their next adventure and are so proud of them and all they have grown to be while attending St. Peter's.

Cheers to a happy May!

Blessings!

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

## ST. PETER'S MAILBOX

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Dear friends of Global Refuge,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$3,926.78 to Global Refuge. Since 1939, we've built a legacy of compassion by walking alongside more than 770,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States, restoring a sense of home for families who had to leave theirs.

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 G. Steele  
 Chief Development and Mobilization Officer

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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St. Peter's is hosting the 2nd annual fundraiser dinner for Loaves & Fishes (aka OBEF / Ocean Beach Emergency Food).

**Dinner! Silent Auction! Entertainment!**



Tickets are selling quickly; purchase yours with this QR code or from the office of St. Peter's by the Sea.



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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**VBS is on its way! Waves of Gratitude**

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, 2025.

Registration is now open; please complete your form as soon as possible by clicking [HERE](#).

Scholarships are available.

## TACO NEWS

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**Empty Bowls**

May 10, 2025 at La Jolla United Methodist Church from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information, visit their website: [www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org)



## HOLY WEEK THANK YOU

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Thank you to all who gave of their time, effort and skill to make Holy Week and Easter an outstanding success! Worship on the cliffs was tremendous, followed by a spectacular brunch, followed by a truly joyful and beautiful Easter service in the sanctuary! Everyone's efforts came together to share God's love with all who participated! THANK YOU!





## HEALTH AND WELLNESS NEWS

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### Sjögren's Awareness Month!

Sjögren's syndrome is one of the most prevalent yet underrecognized complex autoimmune diseases impacting millions of people around the world. It is the second most common *rheumatic autoimmune disease* in the United States, affecting as many as four million Americans. It is actually more common than better known related diseases, such as *lupus* and *multiple sclerosis*. Despite its widespread reach, awareness remains low, many patients experience delays in diagnosis, and treatment options are limited resulting in the progression of the disease.

Why is it called a *syndrome* anyway? A syndrome is a group of symptoms that occur together and suggest a particular abnormality or condition, often without a known underlying cause. In contrast, a disease is a *specific pathological condition* with a well-defined cause, often with standardized diagnostic criteria. Sjögren's, however, is also considered a "disease" to reflect the seriousness and impact of the condition.

*How much do you know about Sjögren's Syndrome?* An *autoimmune disease* is where the body mistakenly attacks its own healthy cells and tissues. In Sjögren's syndrome, the body mistakenly attacks the moisture-producing glands throughout the body. It is characterized by chronic dryness, particularly in the eyes and mouth, which are usually ignored initially as those symptoms alone are not thought of as serious.

While dry eyes and dry mouth are hallmark symptoms of Sjögren's, it goes way beyond dryness. It is a complex *systemic*—that which affects the entire body—three-stage condition that causes fatigue, multiple joint pain, and problems including dryness in the bursa sacs, eye problems, difficulty speaking, dental problems, anemia, and affects multiple organs and systems—lung issues, kidney problems, peripheral neuropathy, brain issues, skin problems/rashes, and an increased risk of lymphoma—the third stage of Sjögren's, among other complications that require comprehensive medical management. Diagnosis of Sjögren's can sometimes be difficult or delayed due to the wide range of symptoms mentioned here that overlap with other conditions.

While Sjögren's disease primarily affects women—about 90% of diagnosed cases—it can also occur in men. Men with Sjögren's disease may be underdiagnosed due to the misconception that it is exclusively a women's disease. Proper awareness is essential for accurate diagnosis and treatment.

All this and more is why *Sjögren's Awareness Month* is so important. You may know someone with Sjögren's and not know they have it, or shy away from it because you don't understand their condition, it's just too complicated. Every story shared, every post published, and every conversation started helps bring visibility and understanding to this disease that impacts so many.

## BIRTHDAYS

### May B-days

#### Day

4	Julia Lawson
4	Lilli Slaughter
5	Alexis Bochen Gold- stein
11	Diane Sherwood
12	Dean Bennett
12	Penny O'Brien
16	Allison Crews
17	Bob Fode
17	Charles Lauger
18	Maya Slaughter
19	Jane Christensen
20	Jacob Zimmermann
24	Gabi Hughes
25	Pat Hendrickson
25	Fletcher Miller
28	Steven Silva



## IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Lora, Carlos, 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

**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.



### Prayer Chain and Church Communications

Have you ever wondered why one person gets put on the prayer chain and another doesn't? It's because we only put people on the prayer chain who request to be put on it. Likewise, when someone dies, if they were a member and we have permission from the family, we send out an email sharing the news. If they were not a member or they were a family member or friend of a member, we only share the news if the next of kin requests it. While we want to share prayers and news with our church family, we also want to be respectful not to share news that isn't ours.

If you ever want to be put on the prayer chain, please be sure to email [office@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:office@stpetersbythesea.org) or speak with Pastor Bekki and we will not hesitate to pray for your or your loved ones. Likewise, if someone you love dies and you'd like us to share that, please contact [office@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:office@stpetersbythesea.org) or speak with Pastor Bekki!



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

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#### EVENTS OF INTEREST

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May 4	Deacon Consecration
May 10	"Church Crawl"
May 30	Preschool Graduation
May 31	OBEF Fundraiser

#### 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 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		Bicycling Group (moved to May 17)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)