

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

Hello Dear Friends,

Thank you to *everyone* whose efforts yielded such a successful and meaningful Stewardship Season! Special thanks to our Stewardship Committee: Ellen Schmeding, Richard Doering, Richard Nielsen, Elaine Lauger and John Smart. Thanks also to Gail Bennett, Sandie Boelter, and Betty Wells who told wonderful, heartfelt stories of times when they have encountered God. Lastly, thank you to Pat Hendrickson, Scott Walls, Solveig Fuentes, and Carol Schultz (our outside facilitator), who worked to ensure a successful congregational forum to kickstart a congregational conversation about remodeling the Sanctuary. I hope that this time has left you inspired to live your lives in response to the goodness of God in your lives!

I want to spend the rest of my letter focused on the Sanctuary Remodel Forum that we had on October 13th.

When I was in the interview process with St. Peter's in 2020, it was in the paperwork that I received from the congregation that the congregation had discerned the need to remodel the sanctuary as phase 2 of the remodel that was completed on the fellowship hall in 2014. This past year, the council has considered picking up the baton left by our predecessors at St. Peter's.

This is not simply a time for upgrades. It is a time for vision. To remodel the sanctuary is to remodel the place where we do our most fundamental work—worshiping together the God we know in Christ through inspiration of the Holy Spirit. **To do this remodel well, we need to be crystal clear about our non-negotiable values and what we want our space to DO for us and for all who encounter it!**

At our congregational forum on Oct. 13th, Carol Schultz, an organizational coach and ELCA Lutheran who worships at Christ Lutheran in Pacific Beach, gathered us around two questions which got at our values as a congregation:

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, Health Outreach Ministry

Hannah DeMers, Newsletter Editor

2024 Council

Pat Hendrickson, President

John Smart, Vice-President

Richard Nielsen, Secretary

Darlene Morrow-Truver, Treasurer

Sandra Boelter; Solveig Fuentes; Liz

Medina; Jacquelyn Romero; Scott

Walls; Betty Wells

1. Think of a place where you have had an encounter with God or felt connected to God. What were the characteristics of that place?

People responded with the following: Nature! NATURE! NATURE! Light! LIGHT! LIGHT! Natural Light! Space that had particular sensitivity to human senses—good acoustics, beautiful color, and the chance to see one another. Music! Peacefulness and fresh air.

These are some of the things that have led our members to feel that they are in the presence of God. How do they square with the sanctuary that we presently have?

2. What part of worship, if it were missing, would leave you feeling like worship wasn't worship?

People responded resoundingly COMMUNION!! MUSIC!! WELCOMING COMMUNITY! Sharing the Peace, Streaming, the Sermon, a chance to hear one another's prayers, silence, scripture, tradition, the sending blessing, and being together with God.

What would it look like to create a space that tells the wider world that *this* is what we're doing inside our walls?

So what's next?

The council and I will appoint a Remodel Steering Committee who will continue this work, creating more opportunities for conversation and input. We are just at the beginning of this work. Be on the lookout for future opportunities to share your wisdom and dreams for this space!

Lastly, it was such a JOYFUL thing to gather with you all to begin this work. I was struck by how well the group worked together and how much consensus and excitement there was in the room. Thank you for the way you showed up!

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Ministry Appreciation Sunday

You're invited to bring a note (or notes) of appreciation on Sunday, November 3 for the St. Peter's annual Ministry Appreciation Sunday. We'll honor Pastor Bekki; our staff; and our Deacons: Joan Allton, Greg Lommen, Diane Sherwood, Steve Silva, and Jennifer Smart.

October Council Highlights:

- Updates were discussed on three goals from our three-year plan
- Sanctuary Remodel
 - A listening session on the sanctuary remodel was held on 10/13. The discussion was facilitated by Carol Schultz. Input from members was gathered and recorded.
- Congregational Life Calendar
 - A draft calendar was reviewed and discussed
- Develop an annual evaluation process for pastor
 - Council President has met with staff for input
 - Members of full Council provided input for the evaluation during the Council meeting.
 - Executive Committee to meet with Pastor in early November to finalize the evaluation

Thank you for the generous response to Alley Ministries request for men's clothing. Two trunk-loads were delivered!

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on October 10, 2024. The following reports are from the treasurer:

| Budget Recap | September Actual | Year-to-Date Actual | Year-to-Date Budget | Difference Actual:Budget |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Income | \$28,636.80 | \$308,784.36 | \$326,249.82 | <\$17,465.46> |
| Expense | \$27,189.81 | \$292,071.13 | \$326,250.18 | <\$34,179.05> |
| Difference | \$1,446.99 | \$16,713.23 | | |

Building Fund

| | September 2024 |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$137,609.54 |
| Income | \$124.12 |
| Expense | \$260.00 |
| Ending Balance | \$137,473.66 |

MUSIC NOTES

November is a season of conscientious praise and thanksgiving, now primarily driven by the federal holiday of Thanksgiving! But initially it was driven by the time of harvest and preparation for winter. We sing songs like “Now Thank We All Our God” and “We Gather Together” in which we, as the people of God, collectively express our gratitude for God’s goodness and blessings. They are our response to His generosity and caring. Take “For the Beauty of the Earth” which enumerates the many things—tangible and intangible—that we have received from God.

The Psalmist in Psalm 148, however, changes the equation of this praise somewhat. Instead of our praise being in response to God, it is the very nature of our relationship to God. Praising God is not limited to humans expressing gratitude for what we have received; all living things and the very earth itself praise God—were created for that purpose. Jesus tells us that if people ceased to praise God, the very rocks would cry out in praise! (Wouldn’t that be something to see?) We praise God because He is worthy to be praised—not just because of what He has done for us, not just because He is MORE worthy in relation to other things, but because HE is.

May we sing His praise with joyful and grateful hearts!

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello St. Peter's Friends and Family,

Whew! October was a whirlwind! With pet blessings, pumpkin patch visit, school photos, community helper week, Halloween and the trunk-or-treat, we have been on the go!



I would like to give a big shout-out to the community helpers that took their time to visit and show our children the variety of helpers we are lucky enough to have in our community:

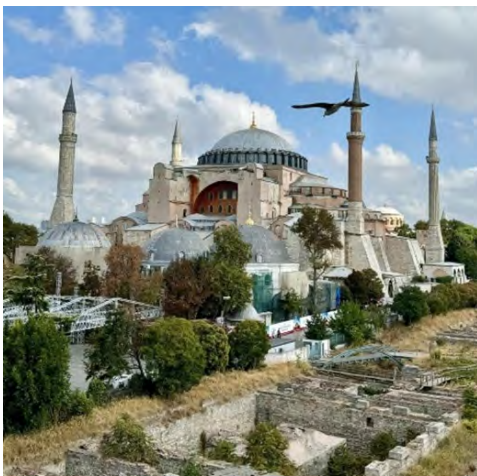
- Dwayne the sanitation worker and his garbage truck
- Officer Tiffany and Officer Sam
- Fire Company 22
- Andy the Arborist
- San Diego Life Guards
- Brian the Pilot

Heading into November we are looking forward to learning about cooking, thankfulness, and the local indigenous peoples of the San Diego area. We'll be celebrating with a Thanksgiving Program. There will be singing by the children and desserts! I am Thankful for our wonderful Preschool Community and the support of such an incredible congregation.



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

PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS



Join Bishop Dave for a Tour of Greece & Turkey! October 22 - November 2, 2025

In Invitation from Bishop Dave:

After the scales fell from Saul's eyes and he became Paul his only passion was sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. He understood that the message of God's unconditional love was not just for Jewish people like him, but for everyone! So he followed God's leading to far away places and diverse cultures to let them know how Divinely loved they truly were. I want to invite you to join me in following Paul's footsteps through Türkiye and Greece. We will stand in places where he delivered sermons. We will meet people who are direct spiritual descendants of these early churches. Most importantly, we will open our hearts to what God has to say to us and how God can transform our lives. I hope that you will make the investment of time and finances in this once in a lifetime spiritual pilgrimage. Let's do this together!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

The Women's Tea and Boutique will be held on Saturday, December 7. The Boutique will include many Christmas ornaments that have been crafted over the past several months during Tuesday Church Mice meetings and at homes. Proceeds from the Boutique and a portion of the proceeds from the Tea will benefit a local nonprofit.



The Tea starts at 1 p.m. and includes a delicious lunch and entertainment. The Boutique will be open prior to the tea and then on Sunday morning, December 8. Tickets will be available in mid-November for \$10 each. The event is limited to 80 attendees.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, November 9th at 5:00 p.m.

We'll begin with appetizers at St. Peter's, then "progress" to one of several local homes for main course, and return to St. Peter's for dessert. Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board and contact Solveig Fuentes for more info.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Upcoming events for Sunday School

December 14: Children's Godly Play—times and activities to be available soon.

December 15: Children and Youth Christmas Program during church services.

If you are interested in being a part of these events, please contact Sandie Boelter Details to be announced at a future time.

Wishing everyone a very special holiday season.

As always in Christ,
Sandie Boelter

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Prospective Member Gatherings!

If you are new to St. Peter's and would like to join the church, or get more information about the church, please join us at the following gatherings after worship in the upstairs class room (through the preschool) on Nov. 10 and Dec 8 from 10:45 to 11:45 (childcare provided!). The new member reception will be Dec. 15 in worship!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Blessing of the Animals

Thank you to everyone who came out to have their pet(s) blessed and to those who worked to make this a wonderful outreach to our community.



We had 40+ dogs blessed and 1 tortoise!

Additionally, we had a puppy adoption event at the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Date!

Christmas Gift Exchange & Potluck Dinner

Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Bring a main dish to share, dessert will be provided, and it's BYOB (bring your own beverage)

Bring a new gift valued at \$20 (gender neutral) wrapped beautifully and let the fun begin!

Look for the sign-up sheet on the board in the Fellowship Hall.

Any questions? See Joan Allton or Solveig Fuentes

Vaccine Recommendations

COVID-19 vaccine

The CDC recommends that everyone age 6 months and older get an updated COVID-19 vaccine.

Getting the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine is important because protection from the COVID-19 vaccine decreases with time. COVID-19 vaccines are updated to give you the best protection from the currently circulating strains.

Some people need an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a pre-existing health condition or treatment that severely weakens their immune system.

Which COVID vaccine should I get in 2024?

The ACIP in June voted to recommend the updated vaccines. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in late August authorized and approved the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA versions of the 2024–2025 updated COVID-19 vaccine, as well as the updated protein-based Novavax vaccine.

Public health has also made it clear that it is safe to mix and match Pfizer and Moderna COVID vaccines for booster shots.

How long does COVID vaccine immunity last?

The Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Novavax vaccines protect against many known variants of COVID-19. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines offer immunity against COVID-19 for up to six months. To increase protection, getting an updated COVID-19 vaccine is now recommended for everyone six months and older.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

The pneumococcal vaccine protects against the bacteria that causes pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis. The type of vaccine and how many doses a person needs depends on their age and medical history. A health care provider can help determine the right vaccine and how many doses to receive. The *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) recommends the pneumonia vaccine for people 65 and older, as well as people 19 to 64 with certain medical conditions. In infants, protection from the pneumococcal vaccine lasts only several months while babies build up immunity to the bacteria. That's why babies need multiple doses of the pneumonia vaccine a few months apart. In adults, one to three doses of the pneumococcal vaccine will likely last the rest of your life.

Which vaccine is most important for the elderly?

As you age, your immune system isn't what it used to be, so an annual *flu vaccine* is one of the best steps you can take to safeguard your health each year. Not only are older people more susceptible to the flu, these respiratory infections can create bigger problems in your lungs and even lead to pneumonia.

RSV vaccine

An RSV vaccine for adults age 60 and older has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Clinics are currently prioritizing their highest-risk patients due to limited supply of the vaccine.

As supplies increase, the vaccine will be offered to more people who are eligible.

Nirsevimab vaccine

A new antibody injection to help prevent severe RSV infections in *infants and young children* was approved by the FDA earlier this year. The nirsevimab vaccine may not be available just yet. If clinics receive a limited supply, they will prioritize the highest-risk patients first.

Ask your physician what is needed for you and your family.

Keep yourself and your children safe!

BIRTHDAYS

November B-days**Day**

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 2 | David Carter |
| 4 | Jennifer Smart |
| 10 | Christina Fadden |
| 13 | Maxton Tellez |
| 13 | Jeff Cours |
| 14 | Jennifer Zimmermann |
| 15 | Sandie Boelter |
| 28 | Carolyn Irby |
| 29 | Chloe Gilsdorf |

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Joan, Lora, Susan, Betty

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

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|
| November 3 | All Saints' Sunday |
| November 9 | Progressive Dinner |
| November 27 | Preschool Thanksgiving Program |

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| Sundays | 8:30 a.m. | Choir |
| | 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/Christmas Crafters |
| | 4:00 p.m. | AA Meeting "Sobriety Seekers" |
| 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) |
| Third Saturday | | Hiking Group (time & location varies) |