

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 Friends,

I want to reflect on the experience of what it's like to be called by God.

I'm going to let you peek inside my brain to the thought processes that have been going on as I have discerned God's call for this congregation as we face the prospect of building a new sanctuary.

I've had a lot of material to write for capital campaign publications. Some of you have asked in these days, "Is it necessary that we rebuild our sanctuary?" As in, do we *need* to do it? So as I have been putting all the materials together, I confess that I was starting to think it was my job to justify why we need to do this. Because if we aren't building a sanctuary because we absolutely need to, then this feels frivolous in a time when I am sure God is calling us to be more than frivolous with our resources.

But the truth is, we don't need to do this. You can worship God in a parking lot. You can worship God in a dilapidated old shed. You can worship God in a small, dark, sanctuary with pillars. We know this. We've been doing it for decades and our souls have been nourished. So then, why? Why are we doing this?

And then, with the help of others the lightbulb in my brain clicked on! The reason we are pursuing this is that we feel the call of God in it. **The experience of being called is driven by something more than need or want...it is driven by God.**

A lot of days, I feel like Noah. There's not a cloud in the sky, there's no clear evidence that a monstrosity of an ark needs to be built. He cannot detect a need and surely he doesn't start building because he *wants* to. He does it because God has asked him to do something according to the scope, not of Noah's knowledge or perception, but God's.

Worship Services

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. onsite
& live-streamed

Staff

Rev. Bekki Lohrmann, pastor
pastor@stpetersbythesea.org

Janine Morrow, Office Administrator
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Hannah DeMers, Newsletter Editor

2026 Council

Greg Lommen, President
Jennifer Smart, Vice-President
Allison Crews, Secretary
Ellen Schmeding, Treasurer
Gabi Hughes; Chance McGinley-Kase;
Fletcher Miller; Steve Silva

Same goes for this project. Are we busting at the seams with young families such that our current space cannot hold us? Is our worship space entirely untenable? (I would argue that this summer's heat was untenable, but you all continued to show up and so I guess it wasn't altogether untenable.) Is the roof collapsing in? Are we violating fire safety codes? No.

But for almost 30 years this call has nagged us. It has not gone away as the church has changed and members have come and gone. And what's more, I am clear that I am not generating this and I do not detect that the congregation has generated this desire to build a new sanctuary either. I am detecting that the congregation is being faithful to where God has led us. And in the same way that Noah did not build the ark only for himself, we will build this thing for a world that we are pretty sure is going to be as in need of Jesus in 100 years as it is today.

So we're moving forward with this call. But that is not really the heart of what this letter is about. I want you to know that God's call is not the same as need and it is not the same as want. Sometimes those things are in the mix, but God's call is something different and it doesn't always make sense based on what we can see.

Where are you detecting God's call today? Where are you being called to say yes? Where are you being called to say no? What is God calling you to build? What is God calling you to prune? Listen...God is calling!

Peace,
Pastor Bekki

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: As you know, St. Peter's is currently beginning our Deeper and Wider Capital Campaign to afford our congregation the opportunity to participate in funding the rebuilding of our sanctuary. This will take place over the next three months.

For this reason, we will temporarily postpone our annual Stewardship campaign, which usually takes place in October. This campaign provides an opportunity for our members to pledge their support for St. Peter's for the coming year. We will revisit the timing for our Stewardship program in the New Year.

Please let Pastor Bekki know of any questions you might have.

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on September 17, 2026. The following reports are from the treasurer:

<u>Budget Recap</u>	<u>August Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Difference Actual:Budget</u>
Income	\$34,501.86	\$294,812.04	\$270,999.92	\$23,812.12
Expense	\$33,129.03	\$251,419.13	\$271,000.00	<\$18,580.87>
Difference	\$1,372.83	\$43,392.91		

St. Peter's by the Sea Building Fund August 2026

<u>August 2026</u>	<u>General Maint. & Repairs</u>	<u>Sanctuary Remodel</u>	<u>Total Building Funds</u>
Beginning Balance	\$111,184.69	\$255,767.02	\$366,951.71
Receipts	\$1,508.50	\$771.36	\$2,279.86
Expense	\$0	\$1,540.00	\$1,540.00
Ending Balance	\$112,693.19	\$254,998.38	\$367,691.57

St. Peter's by the Sea Building Fund Year-to-Date 2026

	<u>General Maint. & Repairs</u>	<u>Sanctuary Remodel</u>	<u>Total Building Funds</u>
Beginning Balance January 1, 2026	\$105,549.31	\$260,190.22	\$365,739.59
Receipts	\$10,514.32	\$15,467.96	\$25,982.28
Expenses	\$3,370.44	\$20,659.80	\$24,030.24
Ending Balance August 31, 2026	\$112,693.19	\$254,998.38	\$367,691.57

MUSIC NOTES

"He is now to be among you at the calling of your hearts. Rest assured this troubadour is acting on His part."
 --*The Wedding Song* by Noel Paul Stookey

Remember Peter, Paul and Mary? In the fall of 1969, Peter Yarrow asked Paul Stookey to write a song and sing it at his wedding ceremony. Paul says he realized this was not a song he could write on his own. He picked up his twelve-string guitar, sat in the quiet, and prayed simply for God's presence to bless the ceremony. Then he picked up a pencil.

For the next hour, words came. Rapidly. Not with the struggle of creative work. Paul later said he did not feel like he was composing, he was transcribing words that already existed somewhere and were just waiting to be put on paper. One hour later the song was complete.

Paul sang the song at Peter's wedding. He assumed it would never be sung again, but a few weeks later Peter asked Paul to sing it during their concert. The audience went completely still. The song became unbelievably popular.

And then Paul Stookey faced a dilemma; he believed the song had been given to him, not created by him. Copyrighting it under his name and collecting the royalties felt wrong. But if he did nothing, the record company would simply keep the money.

So, he established a charitable trust to receive every royalty the song would ever generate. He kept none of it. Not a single cent. Not then, not ever. The royalties could have made him wealthy. He gave them all away.

Over the following decades, this foundation distributed more than two million dollars to charitable organizations across the United States. Soup kitchens. Children's programs. Hospitals. Music education. Impacts Stookey never sought credit for. He believes it is not HIS song. God gave him a song to give away. The song could have been his legacy. He said it never belonged to him in the first place.

Thanks to *The History Today* for input. You can hear the song here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrTfNTzAvYY>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

PACIFICA SYNOD NEWS

The Pacifica Synod encompasses parts of six counties in Southern California from the Imperial Valley & San Diego County, east to Riverside, north to Orange and parts of L.A. County, and the entire state of Hawaii; serving over 100 congregations.

To learn more about activities and events in the synod, check out their website: <https://www.pacificasynod.org/>

PRESCHOOL NEWS

October at St. Peter's Preschool 🍁 🍂

What a wonderful start to our school year! We are so grateful to everyone who joined us for our **Classics Malt Shop Fundraiser**. Thank you to all of our families and friends who came out to support St. Peter's Preschool and for your generous donations toward the purchase of our **new playground table**. Your support makes such a difference, and we are so excited to add this new table to our playground for the children to enjoy!

We have also been so happy to welcome **a few new families** to our St. Peter's Preschool community. As we settle into our classroom routines, we are enjoying getting to know one another, building friendships, and watching our children grow more comfortable and confident each day. We are truly grateful for the wonderful community we have here at St. Peter's Preschool and for the support, kindness, and enthusiasm our families bring to our school.

October is always an exciting month at preschool, and we have lots of fun activities ahead!

🐾 **Pet Blessing – October 3**

We will gather together for a special pet blessing and celebrate the joy and love our furry friends bring to our lives.

🍂 **Pumpkin Patch Field Trip – October 12**

We're heading to the pumpkin patch for a fun-filled day of pumpkins, exploring, and making special preschool memories!

👻 **Halloween Class Parties – October 30**

Our classrooms will celebrate Halloween with festive activities, treats, and plenty of Halloween fun!

🚗 🍁 **Annual Trunk-or-Treat – October 31**

We'll wrap up our Halloween celebrations with our annual Trunk-or-Treat! We look forward to seeing our families come together for this special St. Peter's Preschool tradition.

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. We are incredibly grateful for each and every St. Peter's Preschool family and for the love, support, and sense of community you help create. We're looking forward to a fun-filled October full of learning, laughter, friendship, and lots of fall memories!

Warmly,

Dori Hoadley
Director
St. Peter's Preschool
619-224-1689
www.stpetersbythesea.org
Instagram: St. Peter's_Preschool

"Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me." ~ Mr. Rogers



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

Blessing of the Animals 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

St. Peter's will host its annual "Blessing of the Animals," on Saturday, October 3rd, honoring the life of St. Francis of Assisi, commonly regarded as the patron saint of animals. All who love their animals are welcome to bring their furry, feathered or scaled friends to the north parking lot of the church. to receive God's blessing.

Stop by anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. for an individual pet blessing.

Pups' N Boots will be onsite with puppy adoptions between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive

October is Loaves & Fishes month at St Peter's. Please bring your contributions of non-perishable food items and small toiletries to the church on Sundays or to the preschool Monday-Friday.

In 1978 area churches and community organizations came together to open the first pantry at the Women's Club. In 1979, OBEF (Ocean Beach Emergency Food – aka Loaves & Fishes) officially become a nonprofit helping food insecure families and individuals.

Almost 50 years later the Pantry continues to help provide food to over 1,000 men, women, and children per month in the 92106, 92107, and 92110 area.

BIRTHDAYS

October B-days	
<u>Day</u>	
1	Martha DeMers
2	Karen Marohn
7	Barbara Nielsen
7	John Smart
8	Celia Sepulveda
9	Kathy Rahilly
14	Keith Hoffner
14	Lora Thompson
28	Elijah Lohrmann
29	Betty Wells
29	Charlotte Young



IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Jo, Darlene Th., Elaine

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, Patty L.

Our military, police, fire fighters, first responders, healthcare providers, and all

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 you.



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

EVENTS OF INTEREST

October 3	Blessing of the Pets
October 4	Gratitude Sunday
October 18	Celebration Sunday

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	12:30 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		Biking Group (time & location varies)
Fourth Saturday		Hiking Group (time & location varies)