

# 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,

Despite the fact that these are the hottest months living in San Diego, we are turning again towards the fall months which means a flurry of wonderful things happening in and around church. I wanted to use my letter this month to point you to the good things that are coming!

### **The Sunset Cliffs Auto Show - Sept 7 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

*St. Peter's Choir will kick off the event with the National Anthem and a blessing, and then we will partner with Submerge Church to run the kid's zone in our basketball parking lot.*

### **God's Work. Our Hands Sunday POTLUCK and School Kit Build - Sept 8 after worship**

*God's Work. Our Hands Sunday is a Sunday set aside by the ELCA to celebrate and do God's work in the world. Bring a dish to share and help assemble our Lutheran World Relief School Kits after church.*

### **Confirmation Starts - Sept 15 after worship 10:45-11:45**

*Any youth between 6th and 12th Grade who are not yet confirmed or baptized are invited to join our Confirmation program which runs between September and May. Unless you have an unusual circumstance, the program is two years and is a time for youth to dive into the traditions of the church, the scriptures, and their faith as they prepare to claim it for themselves. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month for an hour after worship.*

### **Pet Blessing - Oct 5 at 10 a.m.**

*In the tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, we bring our pets to church for a very brief worship service and each pet receives a blessing. Tell your friends to bring their pets!*

### **Fall Stewardship Sundays - Oct 6, 13, and 20**

*Each fall we spend time focusing on how to respond to God's presence in our lives with our time, energy, money, relationships, skills, and more. This year we'll be talking about how to steward the future of our sanctuary, beginning a conversation about phase two of the remodel we completed in 2014: a sanctuary remodel. On October 20 we'll celebrate all that God has given us with a catered lunch.*

## 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, 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

**Trunk or Treat - Oct 31**

*Start planning now for how to decorate your car trunk! This is a community outreach event for kids and families, inviting them to trick or treat out of car trunks in our parking lot!*

**Also happening this fall...**

**Deacon School** - Deacons are members of the congregation trained to serve the church through worship leadership and with visitation to homebound, hospitalized, and dying folks. If you've ever wanted to serve in this way, we'll be beginning an 8-month training program in October. Talk to me or any of our deacons if you're interested!

**New Members Gatherings** - In October/November, we're hosting our annual new members gatherings. If you're not a member and would like to make it official, be on the lookout for exact details.

I hope that this fall, you find meaningful ways to live out your faith in and outside of our church!

Peace,  
Pastor Bekki

**NEWS FROM THE TREASURER**

The Congregation Council took a hiatus for the month of August. The following are the treasurer's July financial reports:

Budget Recap	July Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual:Budget
Income	\$28,475.84	\$252,310.99	\$253,749.86	<\$1,438.87>
Expense	\$33,858.94	\$235,565.81	\$253,750.14	<\$18,184.33>
Difference	<\$5,383.10>	\$16,745.18		

**Building Fund:**

	July 2024
Beginning Balance	\$129,377.28
Income	\$13,504.98
Expense	\$3,628.73
Ending Balance	\$139,253.53

Note - Income/Receipts to Building Fund in July stem from the following:	
Transfer from review & consolidation of trust funds:	\$11,149.28
Endowment contribution:	\$1,122.88
Interest from other sources:	\$1,232.82

## MUSIC NOTES

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The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, more commonly known as the Shakers, are a Christian sect founded around 1747 in England. The Shakers broke off Quakerism, and later migrated to the American colonies. There they founded a number of Shaker communities. The Shakers were known for their pacifism, communal living, and their belief in equitable gender value and right.

Their name comes from the unique way they danced as part of their worship. During “meetings,” the Shakers marched, sang, danced, and sometimes turned, twitched, jerked, or shouted. The earliest Shaker worship services were unstructured, loud, chaotic and emotional. However, they later developed precisely choreographed dances and orderly marches accompanied by symbolic gestures.

The Shaker movement was at its height between 1820 and 1860. There were Shaker believers living in 18 major communities and numerous smaller, often short-lived, communities. It had expanded from New England to the Midwestern states of Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. By 1920, only 12 Shaker communities remained in the United States. As of 2019, there is only one active Shaker village: Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village, in Maine, which lists 3 active members; other Shaker settlements are now museums.

Around 1848, Shaker Elder Joseph Brackett, Jr. wrote a little song which celebrates the Shakers’ simplicity and humility while providing a tidy little rhythm for the dancing during a service. “To turn, turn will be our delight, till by turning, turning we come 'round right.” The song also proclaims that satisfaction does not come from wealth or power but rather through a simple life, free of material possessions and worldly concerns.

Brackett never expected his song to have a large audience. When he wrote it, there were only 6,000 Shakers in the entire country, and by the end of the century, the Shakers had all but disappeared and their music with them. However, *Simple Gifts* has been adapted and arranged many times over the years—sometimes with verses that were not part of the original song, and not always as a hymn. Yet, at its heart it is a hymn, a lovely reminder that the things of this world do not offer peace; we will be discontent until we “turn” away from things and focus on God.

You can enjoy it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv8ziNE22bE>

Joe DeMers, Music Minister

## THANK YOU

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Thank you to everyone who donated food & toiletries to our July food drive for Lutheran Social Services (LSS/SC). And thank you to Jacquelyn for filling her car and making the delivery to St. Mark’s Lutheran church!

Thank you to all who donated to the annual school supplies drive. WOW! We’re still sorting items but it looks like we’ll be sending at least 40 School Kits to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) this year and a half-dozen boxes of supplies to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry (LCBM.)

LWR serves children, adults, and families around the globe. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

LCBM serves children and families across our southern border providing spiritual and social ministries, house building, and children’s ministry. LCBM serves children through feeding programs, after school programs, school-supplies and Christmas gift distributions, as well as other programs.

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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### God's Work, Our Hands, Sunday September 8

It will be a celebration Sunday, highlighting our Christian Service ministries year-round and enjoy-ing a potluck lunch after worship. The Church Council is providing chicken. Our gold shirts will be the uniform of the day!

## DEACON TRAINING

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### Have you ever considered being a Deacon?

The word Deacon comes from the Greek word "Diakonia," which means service. A deacon is a minister who serves.

For the past 20+ years, St. Peter's has had a team of Deacons who serve the congregation as worship assistants each Sunday, who make visits to sick and hospitalized folks, dying folks, and folks who are homebound. Sometimes they teach or lead a ministry of the church and they are invited to preach from time to time. Deacons meet once a month with the Pastor for conversation, study, and to coordinate care for those in our congregation.

Between now and October, you are invited to consider whether or not God is calling you to serve St. Peter's as a Deacon. If you're considering this, reach out to one of our current Deacons to learn more: Joan Allton, Diane Sherwood, Greg Lommen, Steve Silva, and Jennifer Smart.

Deacon training will take place October-May with a break in December and will involve regular meetings with the pastor.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### Sunday School News

The new year begins September 15 and we are continuing with the Whirl curriculum. Our children are growing up and so are our lessons; we have ordered the next age-level.

Darlene Truver, Colleen Doering, John Smart, Ellen Schmeding, and Grace Hesse continue to serve as teachers. We appreciate the dedication and reliability of those who are teaching. However, if there is anyone who is interested in joining our group of teachers, it would be great to have more on board. Also, if you think of something we can do to enhance your child's religious education, please let us know.

Sandie Boelter  
Christian Education Committee Chair

## EVANGELISM NEWS

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Save the Date:  
Blessing of the Pets  
Saturday, October 5

## PROPERTY UPDATE

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Our Congregation is blessed with our beautiful St. Peter's facilities located directly across from the magnificent Sunset Cliffs and majestic Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, this beauty of nature brings many challenges in maintaining a building.

The corrosive nature of the salt air continues to add repair or replacement projects including door hardware/locks, exterior light fixtures, and rain gutters to name a few. We continue to address these items along with general maintenance projects as they arise. If you see something that needs to be reviewed or repaired, there is a "Property to Do List" on the bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall where you can note an item for us to review.

While some items are quick and easy to repair, others may be more complex and require that we obtain professional help. Fortunately, we have many members along with the Church and Preschool Staff that assist with repairs. Special thanks to Fletcher Miller and Lyle Beller who have taken on many of these projects. Most recently they have been rebuilding the exterior light poles and building sconces that have been damaged by the corrosive salt air.

We will continue to maintain this beautiful campus that God has provided us to continue his work in Ocean Beach, across our Country and around the World. We truly are blessed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Last month's National Night Out, hosted by the local Neighborhood Watch and held in St. Peter's parking lot, was a huge success! There was an Ice Cream Social and presentations from our community police officers.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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Hello St. Peter's Friends and Families,

September is upon us and we enjoyed a 3-day weekend for Labor Day, September 2.

We are settling in to our 2024-2025 school year and enjoying getting to know our new families and new classes. We are looking forward to the changing of seasons and all the fun that Autumn brings!

We are starting our Letter of the week program. This is a school-wide program that, at the youngest levels, starts an interest in letters, their shapes, and fun related songs and art; with our oldest kiddos this is an introduction to phonics and early reader skills.

We have our 1st fundraiser for the year at Classic's Malt Shop on Monday, September 9; please be on the lookout for the confirmed time in the church Happenings (weekly email on Fridays). We would love to see you there!

We have received our new logo wear with our Spottle inspired logo. Be on the lookout for that cuteness overload!

With love and blessings,

Dori Hoadley

Director, St. Peter's Preschool

[preschool@stpetersbythesea.org](mailto:preschool@stpetersbythesea.org)

619-224-1689

Instagram: St. Peter's Preschool



## CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

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We had so much fun at our Christmas Boutique last year and it was such a successful fundraiser that we've decided to do it again this year.

**That means, it's time to get started crafting!**

We meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

If you want more information or have questions, contact Solveig Fuentes.



## 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:

✠ Dolores Spencer Smith

Dolores (Dee to many of us) joined St. Peter's in 2004 through affirmation of her baptism. She was originally a Minnesota girl but moved to San Diego in 1970. Dee shared her love of God and her passion for dancing with everyone she met; she is missed by her church family at St. Peter's.



**September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month**

Sadly, suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the United States. It is the second leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 34. The highest rate of suicide occurs in persons 75 years of age or older.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were an estimated 1.7 million people who attempted suicide in 2022, and more than 50,000 people died by suicide in 2023. This is one death by suicide every 11 minutes. Firearms are the most common method of suicide (used in about half of all suicides), and men are three times more likely than women to take their lives. The impact of suicide in communities makes suicide a serious public health problem.

**Risk factors** are characteristics that make it more likely that an individual will consider, attempt or die by suicide. Previous suicide attempts, trauma or abuse, mood disorders, losses: death or breakup of a relationship, substance abuse, chronic physical illness, chronic pain, social isolation are just some of the more common risk factors.

**Warning signs** indicate an immediate risk of suicide. Some of these include changes in behavior such as withdrawing from friends, saying goodbye, giving away important items, making a will, taking dangerous risks, displaying extreme mood swings, eating or sleeping more or less are just a few of the more common warning signs to take notice of.

Mental health remains a topic *shrouded in stigma*. Primary prevention focuses on developing connectedness amongst peers, as well as strengthening individual social, mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. Protective factors are characteristics that make it less likely that individuals will consider, attempt or die by suicide.

Conversations about *prevention and awareness* are important so we can break the stigmas around mental health treatment and remind people that it's okay to seek help when they need it. It is important to have contact with providers and effective mental health care, strong connections to individuals, family, community and social institutions.

**988 Suicide Crisis and Lifeline** has developed *five steps* to take to support a loved one that may be experiencing suicidal thoughts:

1. *Ask someone* you are concerned about if they're thinking about suicide. Studies show that asking someone if they are having thoughts of suicide does not increase the likelihood of a completed suicide nor does it increase suicidal thoughts.
2. *Be there for them*. This could be by phone or in person.
3. *Keep them safe*. Reduce access to lethal means for those at risk.
4. *Help them connect* with ongoing support.
5. *Follow up*. Give them a call or visit. Send a text or email to let them know that you are still present and follow-up on those.

**Learn more and find resources. Be the one to save a life. You can do something to prevent suicide!**



**BIRTHDAYS**

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**September B-days****Day**

- 1 Rosemary Sutter
- 9 Lyle Boelter
- 10 Elaine Lauger
- 12 Ann Zegler
- 12 David Zegler
- 14 Shea Slaughter
- 15 Darlene Truver
- 17 Colleen Doering
- 18 Samantha Box
- 21 Patty Lewis
- 26 Ian Smart
- 27 Shawn Morrow

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

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

Lorrayne

**Our homebound members and those in care facilities:**

Keith, Janet, Jane H., Carolyn, Dante, Diane B.

**Our members with on-going concerns:**

Ann Z., Babette, Lily, Lora, Charles

**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**

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**EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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September 7	SC Auto Show
September 8	God's Work. Our Hands.
September 15	Confirmation Class

**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/Walking Group (time & location varies)