



The Fisherman's Net

Dec 2017-Jan 2018 • Volume 11 • Number 1 • www.stpetersbythesea.org

St. Peter's By The Sea Lutheran Church
Church Phone: 619-224-2894 • Fax: 619-224-3830
Preschool Phone: 619-224-1689

Worship Services

Sunday Worship: 9:30am
(Nursery Care provided)

Children's Choir Practice:
Sunday, 8:45am

Evening Prayer: Wednesday, 6:30pm

Staff

Rev. Karen Marohn, Pastor
pastor@stpetersbythesea.org

Vicar Thomas Voelp, Intern
vicar@stpetersbythesea.org

Janine Morrow, Office Administrator
office@stpetersbythesea.org

Doris DeChenne, Director of Music
doris.dechenne@cox.net

Denise Langlois, Preschool Director
preschool@stpetersbythesea.org

Betty Wells
Health Outreach Ministry

Christy Gilsdorf
Newsletter Designer

2017 Council

Jeff Cours, Colleen Doering,
Ellen Schmeding, Christina Doering,
Richard Nielsen, John Smart, Darlene
Morrow-Truver

Pastor's Message

On stirring it up

Each prayer of the day during Advent opens with the startling phrase "Stir up." "Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come." "Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son." "Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God."

Do we have the courage to stir it up during this season? It is so easy to get caught in the rush to Christmas. We are encouraged on every side to start our celebrating now and our purchasing even sooner. That is all fine, but not if we don't get to have an Advent.

Starting on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (December 3rd this year) and ending Christmas Eve, the Advent season is about the interplay between light and dark. "Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness the peoples," says the prophet Isaiah. We can see that evident in the longer nights of December and we see that in the darkness of sin that encroaches upon our lives. But Isaiah continues, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined."

The message of Advent is that the Light of Christ is breaking through our darkness by his birth and will burn bright on Christmas with forgiveness and salvation, hope and joy, peace and love.

Stir it up a little in your life this Advent season. Light Advent candles even if you have already put up all your Christmas decorations. Sing the "waiting songs" of the season even as your ears are filled with Christmas carols. Ready the way of the Lord by letting Christ's Light shine through you in your deeds of charity and celebrations of joy.

Stir up our hearts, Lord, and come to us.

Pastor Karen Maron



The Congregation Council held their monthly meeting on November 12, 2017.

The following are from the Treasurer:

Budget Recap	October Actual	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference Actual: Budget
Income	\$24,108.83	\$272,171.67	\$267,400.12	\$4,771.55
Expense	\$28,874.33	\$272,171.67	\$267,400.26	<\$11,028.75>
Difference	<\$4,765.50>	\$15,800.16		

All Are Welcome – Restoration and Renovation Campaign:

	October 2017
Beginning Balance	\$177,056.46
Income	\$1,182.26
Expense	\$593.05
Ending Balance	\$177,645.67

Music Notes

Doris DeChenne, Music Director

Wow! I can hardly believe that the “holidays” are upon us! What a time of the year! Our Children are busy practicing for their Christmas Musical, The Christmas Carol Special Report which will be performed on Sunday December 17. If your child is not coming to practice.....BRING THEM NOW! We will be practicing every Saturday morning between now and December 2 at 9:00 am. AND our Sunday morning practices at 8:45 will be music only. During Sunday School time more practice!

Our Adult choir has been very busy. We sang on Veteran’s Day for the Memorial for Charles Hoffner. What a privilege and honor to be a part of his service. I was thinking on the way home how very many special memorials I have played over the past many years. It truly is a blessing, a privilege and honor for me to be a part of those very important times in our lives!

Advent and Christmas will be special times with Violin and Cello joining us for Christmas Eve. We certainly appreciate that our intern Vicar Thomas is singing with the choir and also playing his trumpet for many occasions.

I hope that we all can have a blessed Advent and join in the preparation for Christ’s coming. We will be singing Holden Evening prayer the three Wednesdays of Advent. Please plan to join us for this special time! Wednesday’s at 7:00 pm!



Background:

The Ad Hoc Financial Priorities Committee was assembled to review the Church's budget during 2017. This budget called for a transfer from reserves of almost \$45,000 to balance the budget. The goal of the committee was to review both expenses and income and formulate recommendations for the Church Council and Congregation prior to formation of the 2018 Church budget.

Committee members, led by chair Darlene Morrow-Truver, presented the report to the congregation on October 15th. Jeff Cours, Bob Fode, Ellen Schmeding and Betty Wells participated in providing the update to the congregation.

The congregation learned that there are not any significant reductions that can be made to balance the budget. Expenses for current contracts for services and upkeep of the church appear reasonable. The preschool expenses were not reviewed.

Committee members also reviewed wages and benefits paid to church employees. These appeared reasonable and were compared to other similar positions using both internet searches as well as a guide provided by the ELCA that aided in review of Pastor's salary and benefits.

Key recommendations were made in the committee's report and included looking at the potential of freezing wages and reducing benefits for staff members and reviewing contracts for health insurance with our insurance provider to determine if less expensive benefit coverage could be made available. The committee also recommended a review of the janitorial and landscape services, possibly reducing the Synod benevolence, increasing the contribution to the church from the preschool, increasing the costs for Vacation Bible School as well as using more Thrivent dollars for church projects.

The committee also read the book "Rich Church, Poor Church" which highlighted the opportunities to increase financial support for the church by focusing on the many ways we support our Church and community through good works. Many of the suggestions made by the Ad-Hoc committee will be reviewed and implemented by the Stewardship committee throughout the coming year. Some recommendations, like Rally Sunday designed to showcase the contributions of our youth, were implemented right away. During the presentation to the congregation, several suggestions were made including:

- Placing the summarized monthly financial information in the Sunday bulletins
- Having a "Thanksgiving" Sunday to highlight offerings for the General Fund budget to help offset any annual shortfall.
- Sharing the information from the meeting with others that weren't able to attend
- Sharing with one another our ministries that make St. Peter's a special place
- Encouraging our members and guests to read the book 'Rich Church, Poor Church'

Next Steps: The Church Council is currently reviewing the report recommendations and will consider implementation of key recommendations as part of the upcoming budget preparation.

A full copy of the committee's report is available in the church office.

Ellen Schmeding,
Council President



Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee held their quarterly meeting on October 18th. We had a total of \$3,510.20 in interest from our investment accounts to distribute equally in four areas. That meant \$877.55 each for: Missions and Programs, Outreach, Education and Building.

We had several requests for funds plus several matching funds requests. This is how it ended up:

Missions and Programs Grants:

ELCA Hurricane Disaster Response--\$500
Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission--\$377.55

Outreach Grants:

Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino--\$520.00
Mama's Kitchen--\$157.55
Loaves and Fishes--\$200.00

Educational Grants:

Perla Ruiz, DACA student at UC Santa Cruz--\$300.00
Intern Fund--\$477.55
Navajo Lutheran Mission--\$100.00

Building Grant:

\$877.55 for building and landscape maintenance

If anyone has any questions about anything please just ask any member of the committee: Bob Fode, Chair; Kathy Rahilly, Recording Secretary; Jane Christensen, Assistant Secretary; Nancy Aeling, Scott Walls, Pastor Marohn.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 7 pm. If you have any requests for funds please turn them in to one of the members of the committee before that date. Thank you!

St. Peter's Preschool

The Holiday Season is officially upon us!

November was a month full of "Thankful-ness" as we made it through Fall Picture Days and our annual Thanksgiving Program!

During the month of December we will celebrate with our Christmas Program and Pot-luck and so many wonderful St. Peter's Traditions!

The Teacher's and Staff here at St. Peter's Preschool would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Denise Langlois,
Preschool Director



I look forward to Advent all year. As I anticipate the holidays, I get excited for sweater weather, for lighting candles, and for the warm feelings that are all part of the season. And it is also the aspect of renewal—of beginning again—and my hopes for the world, for my communities, and for myself that make Advent and Epiphany seasons that I can get really excited about. There is so much hope for the opportunities that will come with the new year.



It is no coincidence that the theme of Advent is hope. So much hope is associated with the stories we hear again; about the journeys of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, and about the child that is born to us in a manger. We follow the star with the Magi, and we remember with the whole church Jesus' childhood. And as we celebrate these seasons of hope and of light, we are reminded that the light of the world will return in glory and splendor. We need that hope for renewal, and refreshment as preparation for the season of Lent, when our need for that guiding light is revealed for us in the wearing of ashes.

As this new church year arrives, I see parts of myself coming to...light. New questions about my ministry into the future have emerged *en force*. I hope that I will gain better insight into my call to ordained ministry—how I will best serve Christ's church. I wonder how the church will continue to respond to the changing times. I hope that I will continue to improve as a preacher. I hope to have tacit knowledge and insights that will better my ministry as a confident, mature and light-hearted preacher of hope. And most, I hope that I will have the patience and discipline, strength and humor to serve you humbly and light-heartedly as we continue to grow together.

Vicar Thomas Voelp, Seminary Intern

Announcements

Special Meeting of the Congregation

A special meeting of the congregation has been called by Council President, Ellen Schmeding, for Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2018 budget and conduct election of Council and Committee Members. All members are expected to attend.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The annual meeting of the congregation has been called for January 14, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to accept the 2017 Annual Report. All members are expected to attend. Thank you.

2018 Offering Envelopes

2018 offering envelopes will be available for pick up during Fellowship Hour beginning December 24, 2017. If you don't get a box of offering envelopes, call the office at 619-224-2894 or email Elaine Lauger, Financial Secretary. Please don't use your 2018 envelopes before the new year.

LSS/SC Food Drive

January is one of St. Peter's months to collect non-perishable food items to benefit Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSS/SC). Food items will be collected each Sunday in January and delivered to LSS/SC (thank you Rosemary & Dean Sutter) for distribution throughout San Diego County.

Membership Directory

We are preparing for the new edition of our Membership Directory for 2018. Please be sure the church office has your current home address, phone, and email. Thank you!

Offering Talk

Stewardship Talk

By Nancy Aeling

Why I Give

Late on the evening before I gave a temple talk on stewardship, I told my husband I had no idea what to say. He responded simply, “Tell people why you give.” This is why.

There are local reasons. First and foremost, I love St. Peter’s. I love the people in our congregation, I love the service and the community. And at a practical level, that means I want the lights to come on and I want bread and wine at the altar, and coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall. These things cost money.

But there is a less obvious reason I give. Sometimes I am overwhelmed by the sorrows in our world – refugees, homelessness and unspeakable and seemingly unending violence. And I ask myself, how can I possibly make a difference? In the face of the world’s suffering, how can I do anything that helps? By myself, I can’t. With the church, I – we – can. The tithe that I provide to St. Peter’s reaches much further than our parish. Eleven percent goes to the Synod, and 51% of that goes to global relief organizations like Lutheran World Relief. Just one example – in South Sudan nearly two million people have been displaced by civil war, 600,000 of them children. A refugee has lost everything. These are people who have been forced to leave the security we all take for granted: home, livelihood, neighbors, community. Knowing that some of what I give goes to help Sudanese refugees is a comfort.

I don’t give lightly. When I had a regular paycheck, it was not too difficult to apportion ten percent to the church. Now I work for myself and my income varies from month to month. I admit that in a good month I feel a great reluctance to write that check, not knowing what my income will be in the months to come. Still, I write the check even when my fingers itch to just keep the check in my check book and the money in my checking account. I remember, “birds of the air” and “lilies of the field” (*Matthew 6:26-28*). Jesus tells us not to worry about our material needs. So, I send the check, trusting that God will give me the daily bread I need.



Education

Christmas Pageant

This year, our children will present their annual Christmas Pageant during the 9:30 a.m. worship service on December 17th.

Women’s Tea

St. Peter’s by the Sea annual Women’s Tea will be held Saturday, December 9th, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

To share the joy of this wonderful season, please invite your mothers, daughters, sisters, other special ladies, etc. Tickets are \$8 and reservations are required. Please call Gail Bennett.



Worship Leaders

December 2017

DATE	USHERS	GREETER	LECTOR	ACOLYTES	ASSISTANT
December 3	Scott and Sue McMahan	Betty Wells	Nancy Aeling	Maya Slaughter Christina Doering	Vicar Thomas Voelp
December 10	Greg Lommen Scott Walls	Elaine Lauger	Greg Lommen	Jacob & Hannah Zimmermann	Nancy Aeling
December 17	Shawn and Janine Morrow	Elaine Lauger	Jane Christensen	Evan & Ian Smart	Jennifer Smart
December 24	9:30am – Ade & Jane 5:30pm – Ellen S. & John S. 7:30pm – Shawn & Janine	9:30am – Elaine L. 5:30pm – 7:30pm –	9:30am – Rosemary S 5:30pm – Ellen S 7:30pm – Brenda J	9:30am – Amanda & Ben Fadden 5:30pm – Evan & Ian Smart 7:30pm –	9:30am – Diane S. 5:30pm – Joan Allton 7:30pm – Diane S.
Christmas Day 9:30 a.m.	Charles and Elaine Lauger		Charles Lauger		Joan Allton
December 31	Gail Bennett Diane Sherwood	Elaine Lauger	Rosemary Sutter	Evan & Ian Smart	Nancy Aeling

January 2018

DATE	USHERS	GREETER	LECTOR	ACOLYTES	ASSISTANT
January 7	Greg Lommen Scott Walls	Betty Wells	Jim Grutkowski	Maya Slaughter Elina Pepper	Jennifer Smart
January 14	Elaine Lauger Bob Fode	Elaine Lauger	Nancy Aeling	Jacob & Hannah Zimmermann	Vicar Thomas Voelp
January 21	Scott and Sue McMahan	Elaine Lauger	John Smart	Amanda & Ben Fadden	Joan Allton
January 28	Bob Fode John Smart		Bob Keck	Christina Doering Trent Webster	Nancy Aeling

If you are unable to serve, please notify your coordinator.

Ushers & Greeters – Elaine Lauger

Worship Assistants – Diane Sherwood

Sunday School – Ellen Schmeding

Lectors – Jane Christensen

Acolytes – Trent Webster

God's Work in the Synod and ELCA

Some of the money you give to St. Peter's by the Sea goes to support the Pacifica Synod and the ELCA. Every year, someone gives a talk about what that money does. I usually find it exciting because of all the things we as a church are accomplishing. I hope you do, too. But there are only so many details someone can give in a talk. I thought something in writing might be helpful.

About half of the mission support money we send to the Pacifica Synod's office stays with the Pacifica Synod.

The synod's mission support covers a broad range of activities. For example, part of the money you're sending to the synod office supports ministries such as the Latino ministry, campus ministries (like Agape House), the Table, Central City Lutheran Mission, and the Coaching ministry. It supports congregations: new ones starting, ones calling pastors, internships, congregations that are moving, and ones that are closing down. It goes to meetings and educational workshops like the Day of Theological Reflection, Theoasis, the Workshop for Congregational Treasurers and Administrators, and the Synod Assembly. And it goes to funds that support congregations in doing missional work, such as Stephen Ministry Training Scholarships, the Murray & Rhoda Finck Global Engagement Mission Fund, and the Matthew 25 Fund.

The Pacifica Synod's office shares its mission support with the ELCA Churchwide organization: 51% of the synod's mission support income goes to churchwide mission support, where it's doing God's work around the world.

The ELCA uses some of that money to grow the ELCA itself: starting new congregations, helping congregations renew their ministries, developing ethnic ministries, and creating resources for sharing faith, discipleship, prayer, and worship. The ELCA also uses it to grow the Lutheran Church around the world, sending missionaries, training leaders and evangelists, and working with companion congregations in the Lutheran World Federation. Some of the money supports churchwide ministries such as providing office space and equipment, maintaining databases and archives, helping congregations and synods with legal matters, and designing and maintaining communication tools. And some of it supports and develops leaders through seminaries, offering events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults, providing ministry resources and networking opportunities for lay leaders, and connecting ELCA members with one-another.

We talk about "God's work, our hands," but isn't it amazing to step back and see all the things the church is doing? And to realize that St. Peter's by the Sea, and our contributions, are part of it?

Jeff Cours,
Evangelism Chair

Holden Evening Prayer

We will again be offering an opportunity for prayer on the three Wednesday evenings of Advent - December 6, 13, & 20.

Holden Evening Prayer will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a special word of hope given each week. Prepare for Christmas with this soul-blessing time of sung prayer.



December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Each year more than 250,000 children are treated at hospitals for toy-related injuries. Most of these injuries affect children under the age of 15, and more than half injure the face. However, the majority of these injuries can be prevented.

When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys.

This holiday season (and beyond), please consider the following guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid purchasing toys with rigid or sharp points, rods, spikes, or dangerous edges.
- Read all labels and warnings on toy boxes.
- Only buy toys that are meant for the child's age, maturity, and ability.
- Show children how to use the toy safely.
- Supervise children while playing.
- Fix or throw away broken toys.
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (to include helmets, protective eyewear, elbow and knee pads).
- Do **NOT** give toys with small parts (including magnets and "button" batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking. If the piece can fit inside a toilet paper roll, it is not appropriate for kids under age three.
- Do **NOT** give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements.
- Do **NOT** give crayons and markers unless they are labeled "nontoxic".

We all want our children to be happy and healthy, and we want to protect them from harm

We can best achieve this goal by getting our children yearly wellness check-ups, as well as providing safe toys, environments, and adult supervision.



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

YMCA Exercise Class
Monday & Friday mornings, 9 am

Christian Service Day
(Church Mice)
Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am - 12 noon in the Parish Hall

Gentle Yoga
Tuesday mornings, 10 am

Women's Book Study
Third Tuesday of the month, 6 pm (resumes in January)

St. Peter's serves at TACO
First Friday of the month, 8:30 am

Men's Book Study
Alternate Saturday mornings, 8:30 am

Confirmation Class
First Sunday of the month, 11 am



TACO = Third Avenue Charitable Organization

Who We Serve:

TACO serves everyone, regardless of race, gender, faith, age, or sexual orientation. A large number of those served are without permanent homes or are living on the streets. Many others are of retirement age, living in the surrounding senior citizen residential towers on low fixed incomes. Still others are physically disabled living on relatively little income from sources such as state disability and Federal SSI.

What We Do:

MEALS: Two weekly meals are made possible by partnerships with businesses, churches, friends and neighbors – much goes into providing meals for San Diego’s most vulnerable residents.

CLINICS: To meet some of the needs of our guests, a community of practitioners partner with TACO to provide much needed medical, pharmacy, dental, acupuncture and law clinics.

SOCIAL SERVICES: To help in the area of the psycho-social needs of our guests, TACO staff partners with social work interns to provide counseling and other social services.

GOING HOME: Provide end of life services for the dying individual, their family, and their community in a manner which creates a place for healing of mind, body, and spirit.

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree Project

Traditionally, members of St. Peter’s by the Sea open their collective generous heart to children in the San Diego and Tijuana area for whom -- otherwise -- Christmas may not come.

There are two organizations we support by providing age-specific and gender-appropriate gifts: the Hispanic Outreach Program at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in San Diego and Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry serving children in Mexico.

How can you take part?

1. Look for the ‘Angel Tree’ in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays or in the Preschool office during the week.
2. Pick a red or green Angel and ***sign the Sign-Up sheet.***
 - a. The Red tags are for children in San Diego
 - b. The Green tags are for children in Mexico; no gift cards, please
3. Buy a gift for that child in the \$15-\$20 range.
4. Bring the wrapped gift – with the red or green Angel attached -- to St. Peter’s and put it under the tree by December 17th.

Thank you, St. Peter’s ‘Angels’!

If you have any questions, contact Rosemary Sutter.



D E C & J A N B I R T H D A Y S

December

- 1 Cameron Box
- 1 Miranda Williams
- 2 Joetta Foster
- 4 Pete Fuentes
- 4 Elissa Hysko
- 5 David Pepper
- 9 Matt Beaghley
- 12 Reese Sandage
- 13 Nathanael Whitmore
- 21 Nancy Aeling
- 22 Russ Webster
- 26 Greg Lommen
- 30 Carole Otterstad
- 31 Doris DeChenne

January

- 1 Carol Heasley
- 5 Jason Fortune
- 7 Patti Pepper
- 9 Laura Brown
- 9 Frieda Pallas Sprague
- 13 Mark Zegler
- 14 Beverly Mitchell
- 16 Carlos Svendsen
- 16 Vouletti Thompson
- 23 Janine Morrow
- 23 Melissa Perez
- 27 Dylan Daugherty
- 30 Ben Fadden
- 31 Delfino Lutack



In Our Prayers

Prayer leads you to see new paths and to hear new melodies in the air. Prayer is the breath of your life which gives you freedom to go and stay where you wish and to find the many signs which point out the way to a new land. Praying is not simply some necessary compartment in the daily schedule of a Christian or a source of support in time of need, nor is it restricted to Sunday morning or as a frame around mealtimes. Praying is living.

*Henri J. M. Nouwen
from "With Open Hands"*

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

Christina F., Dante, James

Our homebound members and those in care facilities:

Gerry, Keith, Ann R., Leon & Violet, Ivy, Hank, Wayne, Dora, Beverly, Della, Shirley

Our members with on-going concerns:

Kevin, Rose, Phil, Steve F., Mary, Ann Z., Sandy

Our military, police, fire fighters, and first responders

Thanks to all who regularly pray for the needs of our parish.

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 keep our intercessors informed of the continuing need.

Thank you.



St. Peter's By The Sea Lutheran Church
1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24 Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship – 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

