

The

**Fisherman**

**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**

3751 Estero Blvd.

**E.L.C.A.**

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: 239-463-4251



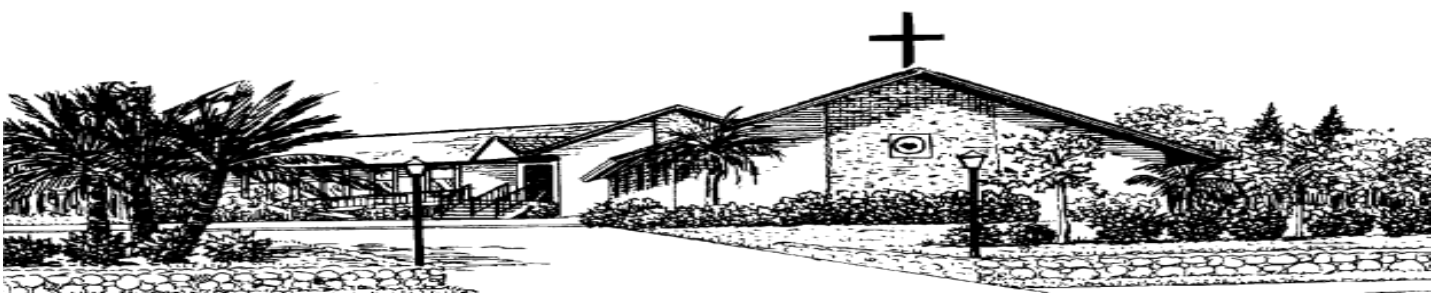
*January*  
**2023**

**Pastor – Rev. Sharon Taylor**

**St. Peter Lutheran Church ELCA**

**PO Box 07310**

**Fort Myers, FL 33919**



## **STAFF**

**Pastor – Rev. Sharon Taylor**

**Office Administrator – Trudy Archer**

**Organist/Choir Director – Jim Kreger**

**Artist in Residence/Pianist – Shirley Roe**

**Digital Ministry Coordinator – Deacon Lisa Miller**

**WEBSITE:** [www.stpeterfmb.com](http://www.stpeterfmb.com)

**Email:** [Stpeterfmb@gmail.com](mailto:Stpeterfmb@gmail.com)

**Facebook – St. Peter Lutheran ELCA, Fort Myers Beach**

**YouTube – St Peter Lutheran Church Ft Myers Beach**

**Go to the website and click the YouTube icon.**

**OFFICE INFORMATION** **Please keep us informed** if you move, change your phone number or email address! We want to let you know what's going on here, so being able to reach you is important!

EITHER E-MAIL OR SEND TO OUR PO BOX

[stpeterfmb@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterfmb@gmail.com)

St. Peter ELCA  
PO Box 07310  
Fort Myers, FL 33919

## **Pastor Sharon's Sharings**

### **GRACE UPON GRACE**

**"For from Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. John 1:16**

In these last three months we have endured unimaginable hardship. The storm was traumatic, but quick. The aftermath will bring us struggle for a long time. Yet, at the same time, in the aftermath, we continue to receive "grace upon grace" or grace and more grace!



The outpouring of prayer, love, support, and monetary assistance has been humbling. So many congregations and individuals have reached out and offered us their assistance. We are blessed to be a part of the Body of Christ!

On December 17, 2022 we engaged in our first discussion about the state of St. Peter and how to move forward. We quickly realized that this is going to be a long process. The engineering report is in the hands of the insurance adjuster. In the meantime, we continue to wait. St. Peter council is actively working and has made the decision to hire a public adjuster to assist in the process.

So we wait....but what is crucial for us to understand is that our waiting is an “active waiting”.

To simply rebuild our structures without discerning our new mission and ministry is misguided. Our building is not the church. The assembled people of God active in worship and service is the living church. Buildings and physical facilities should always be used as a tool for the mission of the gospel. This is our opportunity to pray and brainstorm and dream and ask the hard questions about what God is now calling us to be on Fort Myers Beach. As we heard in our discussion, FMB, itself, has no idea what it will look like when the dust settles. We are all in the same process of slow, but steady, progress.

In this liminal space, this space between what is and what will be, please pray for wisdom, strength, and faithfulness as we seek to do God’s will on the island. May this new year bring unexpected gifts and unfolding surprises. May this year bring “grace upon grace”.

## ST PETER CLEAN-UP RECAP

November 28, 29, 30, 2022

Monday: 24 people were present during the workday of 9 am - 3 pm. Lunch was provided by Lutheran Disaster Response.

Tuesday: 14 volunteers were present.

Wednesday: 17 volunteers including Holiday Demolition and Debris Removal, Sharon Faircloth owner who sent three of her employees (at her cost)

The volunteers included four ELCA pastors; Jonathan Gantt, Rusty May (and PJ May), Matt Shapton, Timothy Taylor and representation from local congregations of Trinity-Gateway, Christus Victor, Messiah/North Fort Myers, Living Faith/Pembroke Pines, Community Church in the Ranch, St. Mark/Dunedin, and local volunteers from FMB, Avalon Preserve, and of course, our own St. Peter members past and present! We are so grateful for this response. (We actually had more volunteer requests but intentionally kept the numbers at 15 for safety purposes.)

These folks came and worked so hard cleaning the breezeway so that we could remove the moldy and ruined things out of the upstairs. They cleared out the furniture, washers and dryers, dishes, cabinets and other things you don't want to know about out from under the building. They carried it all to the curb and it was picked up and hauled away during the free cleanup period on the Beach.

We also give thanks for Pastor Jhon Freddy Correa who presided at St Peter worship while Pastor Taylor was down with the flu and covid. We are also grateful to Peace Lutheran Church and Pastor Andreas Stein for their generous hospitality as our host site. They are also hosting St. Michael and All the Angels Episcopal Church from Sanibel.

## WHAT CAN I DO DURING THIS TIME TO SUPPORT ST PETER?

- Pray
- Serve the community and those in need now.
- Provide ongoing resources for those recovering from Hurricane Ian.
- Develop partnerships with other churches.
- Strengthen your faith through regular bible study, worship, soul tending, fellowship with others.

- Check out service opportunities through Beach Baptist site.

Folks, this is an important time for us to stay centered in God and on the needs of our community. Let's keep our eye on the ball! God's mission and our calling doesn't stop because we have no building. There is still much to do in Christ's name. This is the time to make St Peter visible on the island. May God give us the creativity and openness to imagine and live into a new future of service and love.

Peace

Pastor Sharon Taylor



## **HERE ARE THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE QUOTES FROM MARTIN LUTHER**

"You are not only responsible for what you say,  
but also for what you don't say."

"The fewer the words, the better the prayer."

"I have held many things in my hands,  
and I have lost them all;  
that whatever I have placed in God's hands,  
that I shall possess."

"Here I stand; I can do no other."



## **Combined Luncheon Lunch Bunch/ROMEOs**

We are going to lunch, finally!!

On Wednesday, January 25, we will meet  
at Deep Lagoon for lunch!

All are welcome to come share  
a meal and some fellowship.

*Deep Lagoon      14040 McGregor      Fort Myers*

For reservations, please phone Jana Clevenger at  
(317) 753-1510

### *Proof of light*

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."



### *Our Prayer List*



<i>Adler Biddle</i>	<i>Marilyn Housemeyer</i>
<i>Laura Bond</i>	<i>Bruce &amp; Diane Allen</i>
<i>Joy Booth</i>	<i>Larry Nelson</i>
<i>Sally Malcom-Bethea</i>	<i>Mary Harrington</i>
<i>Karen Carpenter</i>	<i>Shirley &amp; Sheldon Roe</i>
<i>Church in Haiti</i>	<i>Jim Fogdall</i>
<i>John Hyssong, Jr.</i>	<i>Sandi Cottingham</i>
<i>Barbara Deming</i>	<i>Scott Seeman</i>
<i>Ernest H. Garbade (son)</i>	<i>Debbie Smalley</i>
<i>Lynda Butler</i>	<i>Ryan Smith</i>
<i>Jack &amp; Shirley Hyssong</i>	<i>Christopher &amp; Lilly</i>
<i>Bill Figgins</i>	<i>Alexis Tuminello</i>
<i>Kim May</i>	<i>Liz &amp; Mark Venturin</i>
<i>Michelle Taylor</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Carol Look</i>
<i>Tim Taylor</i>	<i>Eleanor Paulsen</i>
<i>Ida Syvertson</i>	<i>Monna Weiler</i>
<i>Andrea Nisja</i>	<i>Brooker Simms</i>
<i>Jim Wall</i>	<i>Cherie Kullberg</i>
<i>Bill and Maloa Palmer</i>	<i>Karen Magley</i>
<i>Jim &amp; Finney Noffsinger</i>	<i>Miranda Perry, friend of Trudy</i>
<i>Joanne and Charles Rush</i>	<i>(parents of Pr. Sharon and Tim)</i>
<i>Bob Ehrenreich</i>	<i>Nancy Verk, sister of Norma Conner</i>
<i>Linnea Olsen</i>	<i>Mike &amp; GiGi, friends of Rhona</i>
<i>Pat LaScoula, friend of the Burrs</i>	<i>Glen Marquis</i>
<i>Debbie Koppenhaverer</i>	<i>Travis Schmidt, son of Liz Venturin</i>
<i>Jack Worrall</i>	

### *Our family serving in the Armed Forces*

*Marshall (son of Paul & Mark)*  
*Robert McGuire (grandson of Arlene Burm)*

*We also pray for all the members and friends of St. Peter  
as we deal with all the issues from Hurricane Ian*



W.E.L.C.A.



*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”*  
*Ephesians 2:10*

W.E.L.C.A. is saddened by the losses suffered by our congregation as well as so many others in the area. We continue to pray for healing and discernment for all who are struggling.

At this time, we will not be meeting. As soon as we have more information and can process what we are dealing with, we will let you know.

*Sisters in Christ, Marilyn and Diane*

### Wisdom from MLK



I am convinced that love is the most durable power in the world. It is not an expression of impractical idealism, but of practical realism. Far from being the pious injunction of a Utopian dreamer, love is an absolute necessity for the survival of our civilization. To return hate for hate does nothing but intensify the existence of evil in the universe. Someone must have sense enough and morality enough to cut off the chain of hate and evil, and this can only be done through love.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

## SCAN IN ORDER TO MAKE YOUR OFFERING ONLINE!!

We now have a QR code that you can use to get to our online payment option. Just use the QR reader app on your phone and it will take you to the online donations.



# January BIRTHDAYS

1/1 Candy Palmer

1/4 Deb Gresham

1/5 Carol Schmiesing

1/8 Doroty Louth

Bruce Kullberg

1/13 Ginney Keeton

Shirley Roe

1/14 Paul Gresham

Jack Bunton

1/15 Betty Horvatic

1/24 Jim Wall

**Amazingly, there are no January Anniversaries!**



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## Church Council Minutes from November 18, 2022

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting by Zoom Friday, November 18, 2022 Members Present: Donna Albert, Arlene Burm, John Torstveit, Jana Clevenger, Rhona Diamond, Pastor Sharon Taylor.

Devotions and Prayer by Pastor Taylor.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Rhona to approve the minutes from the Nov. 4 zoom meeting. Motion passed.

All enduring gifts of \$1,000. each have been sent out.

Over 40 people have signed up for the Thanksgiving meal with Peace Lutheran on Thanksgiving Day.

The 54th anniversary meeting will be held after the 10 a.m. worship service on Sat., Dec. 3, 2022. Donna will read an announcement about the meeting at the services on Nov. 19 and 26. Pastor will include the information on her electronic announcements. We will need a quorum of 15 members to conduct business including our 2023 operating budget and the election of new council members.

On Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 we will have synod representatives present for the service and meet with us after the service to discuss our church's present situation and the future of St. Peter. There will be a luncheon following with volunteers serving so that St. Peter people can attend the meeting. There will be 1 pod delivered to the church on Wed.,

Nov. 23, 2022 along with a porta-potty. Volunteers for clean-up have been secured for Nov. 28, 29, and 30. Lunch will be brought in from Mel’s Diner.

A motion was made by John and seconded by Rhona to donate \$500. to Peace Lutheran at this time for the use of their facility. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by John and seconded by Rhona. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Arlene Burm, secretary

**2023 – CHURCH OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT..... Dr. Jason Kurtz**

**VICE PRESIDENT.....Mark Venturin**

**SECRETARY .....Arlene Burm**

**TREASURER ..... Jim Look**

**MEMBERS:**

**Jana Clevenger - Rhona Diamond - Lynn Larson**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP US UPDATED WITH  
YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS , PHONE NUMBER &  
E- MAIL ADDRESS!**

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