

The

Fisherman

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

3751 Estero Blvd.

E.L.C.A.

Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Phone: 239-463-4251



March  
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**

At the end of the month of March it will be six months since Hurricane Ian. We have been on this journey for half a year, and my mind is still struggling to get a grip on what has happened. In the last six months it seems like everything has changed and nothing has changed. Our local community will never be the same. We look at the state of our island, and it seems like everything has changed! At the same time, the rebuilding of our community seems to be stuck in a perpetual movie scene from Groundhog's Day. We look at the state of our island, and it seems like nothing has changed!



Although we may not have welcomed our present reality, it does provide us the opportunity to see and live the paradox of God’s kingdom in a very real and deep way. Living in the tension between death and life, joy and sorrow, destruction and rebirth is God’s redemptive story. We are now having to depend on the faith which we have spoken our whole lives. We are now having to wrestle with the questions that really matter and are learning to “sit with” those questions when the answers are not easily discernable.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11-13 **“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who give me strength.”**

Through the Spirit’s guidance and wisdom given throughout a lifetime of suffering and hardship, Paul learned that resisting any circumstance of life is a dead-end. Embracing and working through the process of accepting life as it comes, is the way to the healing and wholeness of the God who entered suffering to transform it for all.

Everything has changed; nothing has changed! Buried in this paradox is the gift of life.

As we journey through the wilderness of Lent, we do so clinging to the resurrection that has come, is coming, and will come.

Blessed Lent,  
Pastor Sharon Taylor

## ***CHANGE TO ANNUAL MEETING!***

***Please update your calendars!***

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held **Mar. 25, 2023**, immediately following the 10:00 am service at Peace Lutheran Church, 15840 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Immediately following worship, voting members may check in at the back of the sanctuary and return to their seats. Guests and friends who are staying for the meeting with Pastor Khader are asked to gather in the fellowship hall and begin lunch. Following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting, members are free to join the others for lunch and the discernment conversation.

# UPCOMING *Events*

## *During Lent - Faith Beyond the Storm*

*Wednesday mornings 9:30-10:30 St. Peter Parking Lot*

*Saturday mornings following worship at Peace*

## *Saturday morning worship Every Saturday*

*St Peter worship 10am at Peace Lutheran*

## *Sunday morning worship*

*Outdoor worship in St. Peter parking lot*

*Every Sunday in March - 8:30am*

## *Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023*

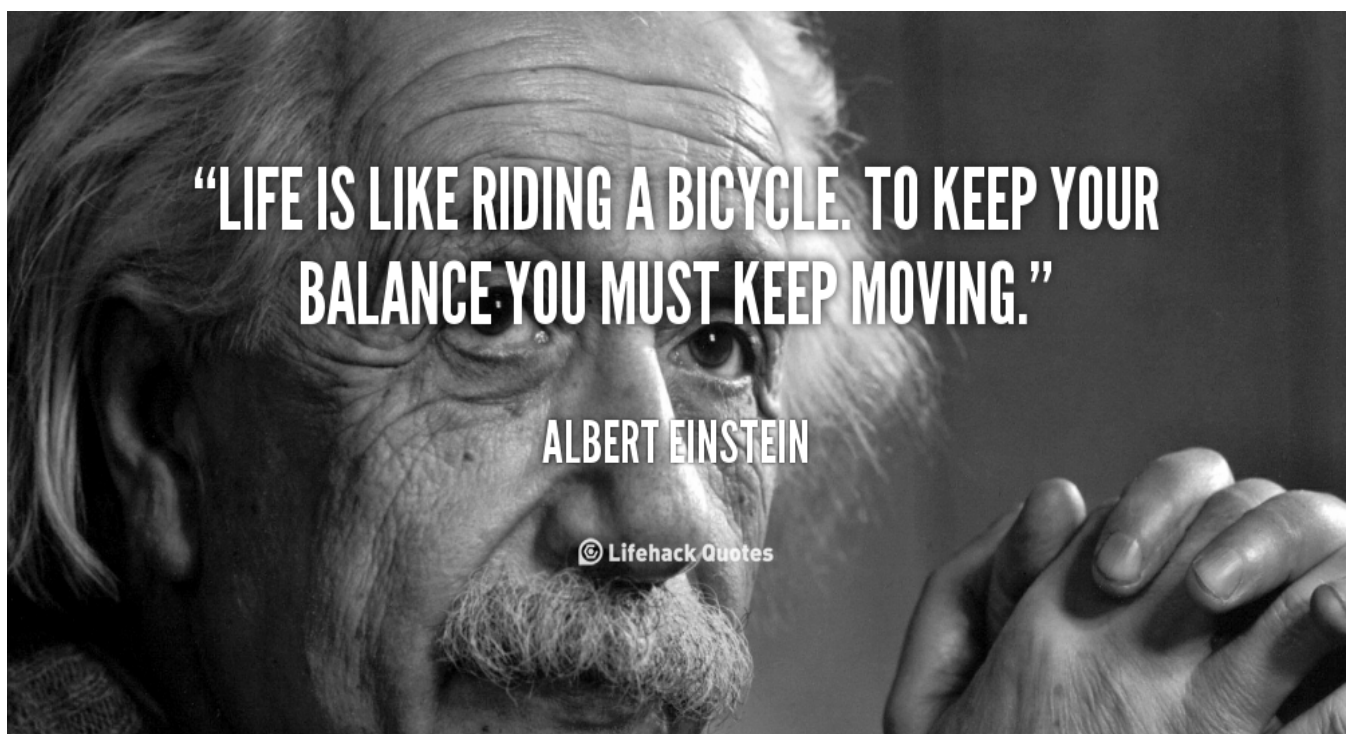
*7:00 pm with Peace Lutheran*

*Good Friday April 7, 2023, St. Peter parking lot - noon*

*Bring a chair!*

*Easter Sunday April 9, 2023 St Peter parking lot 8:30am*

*Bring a chair!*





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

"All the cunning of the devil is exercised in trying to turn us away from the Word."

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."



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

March Lunch Bunch/ROMEO's will be Thursday,  
March 29, at 11:30 am

Bahama Breeze

14701 S. Tamiami Trail, Fort Myers

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

### **UPDATES**

#### **Soul Tending on the Beach**

Meditation and spiritual conversation

Mondays 830-9:30am

On the beach directly across from St Peter Lutheran.  
Bring your own beach chair.

#### **Spiritual Support Group: Faith "in and beyond" the Storm**

Wednesdays 9:30-10:30am

St Peter Lutheran Church parking lot      Bring a chair



# 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.



## MARCH Birthdays & Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

3/5 Cherie Kullberg	3/20 Liz Venturin
3/6 Nita Saviste	3/21 Joy Booth Paul Brandau-Shirley
3/9 Linda Beaulieu Carter Kurtz	3/27 Harld Pekol
3/14 Barb Demin	3/29 Gail Drohan

### ANNIVERSARIES

3/9 Bruce & Cherie Kullberg

*"I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God,  
who is sending a love letter to the world,"  
Mother Teresa*



# W.E.L.C.A.



*“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”      Philippians 2:4*

W.E.L.C.A. had our first meeting since Hurricane Ian hit September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We met at the home of Arlene Burm. There was a lot to talk about and decisions had to be made.

- March will be Blanket Month.
- Peanut Butter Projects will be money in/money out (this collection is usually in November). Donations will go to Harvest Time Ministries.
- Unfortunately, “Pillowcase Dress” Project is on hold for now.
- Jana has continued Lunch Bunch, with dates to be announced.

Our next meeting will be held on March 23, 2023, at 9:30. Location to be determined.

Thanks to all for your support with our projects

– Diane Allen & Marilyn Torstveit

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## MARCH IS BLANKET MONTH

Many people throughout the world have basic survival needs that the Church strives to meet. One of these needs is to provide warmth and comfort to those who have no way to keep warm.

Your donation of \$10.00 will supply a much-needed blanket to someone in need. Your cash donations will be gratefully accepted throughout the month of March. Envelopes are available on the counter in the narthex every Saturday and in your bulletin. Checks may be made payable to:

St. Peter Lutheran Church  
Memo Line – BLANKETS

Please prayerfully consider donating to the mission

Since we missed **Peanut Butter Month** in November, we are also collecting donations for Peanut Butter this month.

Harvest Time Ministries serves farmworker families who work in the fields planting and harvesting tomatoes, strawberries, jalapenos, peppers, cucumbers, and other crops. We feed souls and bodies and show the grace and mercy of Jesus to these workers and their families.

Envelopes are available in the narthex on the counter. As above, make your check payable to St. Peter, Memo Line – Peanut Butter



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## Church Council Minutes from January 19, 2023

Members Present: Jason Kurtz, Mark Venturin, Jim Look, Arlene Burm, Jana Clevenger, Rhona Diamond, Lynn Larson, Pastor John Sims (visiting HDR pastor)

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jason Kurtz.

Devotions and prayer by Pastor John Sims

Motion made by Jana and seconded by Lynn to accept agenda for the meeting. Motion passed.

Motion made by Mark and seconded by Jana to approve the December Secretary report. Motion passed.

Motion made by Lynn and seconded by Jim to approve the December Treasurer report. Motion passed.

Property Report: Jim went to the FMB planning commission to inquire about zoning permits for any work done on the church. He also got an estimate on roof repair which would be about \$105,000. It was also decided to post No Trespassing signs on the property for liability purposes.

Worship, Music, and Art Report by Lynn: Saturday worship will continue each week at Peace Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. Signage will be put up at St. Peter to indicate the services available and a sign will be put up at Peace indicating we are sharing their space. Sunday worship will be held at 8:30 a.m. at St. Peter parking lot on Jan. 29, Feb. 26, and March 26. A generator will be borrowed to help provide music. Ash Wed. and Maundy Thursday will be with



Peace. Good Friday service will be at noon at St. Peter parking lot and Easter will be at 8:30 at St. Peter. The Lenten theme will be: Faith Beyond the Storm.

Old Business:

Insurance: The Progressive policy is maxed out. We have yet to hear from Citizens.

Clean-up plan: Because of all the debris to still be removed it was decided to pursue hiring a crew for clean-up. A motion was made by Rhona and seconded by Mark to contact Holiday

Demolition owned by Sharon Faircloth to get a quote on clean-up of the following:

- Remove and dispose of all debris from parking lots and grounds
- Remove and dispose of all debris in Lau Hall
- Remove and dispose of all drop ceilings in Lau Hall
- Remove and dispose of all flooring from Lau Hall
- Remove and dispose of all drywall to studs from Lau Hall
- Remove and dispose of all interior doors, jambs, trim from Lau Hall
- Remove and dispose of all debris from under sanctuary building
- Remove and dispose of all carpet/vinyl in the sanctuary, narthex, restrooms, offices, etc. (will require unbolting of pews)
- Remove and dispose of drywall (first 2 feet) and baseboard in the sanctuary, narthex, restrooms, offices, etc.
- Rent a dumpster to handle the debris

Motion passed.

Public Adjustor: Jason talked to Bryan Rothring about our need for a public adjustor. He has much experience with condos, and several churches. We will see if he is willing to meet with the council sometime in the near future.

Pastor Sims will make inquiries about receiving more help from FEMA, etc. about our situation.

Pastor Sharon suggested a tithe of 10% of money we receive for Hurricane Ian relief to help out Faith Lutheran Church in Lehigh Acres who had \$500,000. in damages but has \$76,000. deductible. They are a needy congregation. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Lynn to gift this church with 10% of money we have received up to this point for hurricane relief. The motion passed 6/1.

A motion was made by Jana and seconded by Lynn to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. We adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Arlene Burm, Secretary

## **Update From Council President**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Book of Proverbs (16:9) tells us that “We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” I would suggest it is important that we remember this as we move forward and discern what the future at St. Peter looks like after Hurricane Ian. The Bible offers lots of advice for what path in life will provide us the most meaning and fulfillment. Our path refers to the way we live and what we decide to do with our limited time on earth. We should rejoice and be encouraged that God will assist us every step of the way and prayerfully consider those steps.

Part of determining that path begins on March 25th . Rev. Khader El-Yateem, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop (South Region) from the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA will be here to guide our first steps of discernment. All are invited and I would encourage members, friends, and visitors to attend. We will hold our annual congregational meeting immediately after worship and then transition to the fellowship hall to roll up our sleeves and begin our discussions.

This will not be easy work as we begin to consider and answer some tough questions. It will require us to open our hearts and listen to God’s voice, sift through our own desires and use available information to begin looking at options for St. Peter’s future. Some of the data will be the results of a survey that you will be receiving in the near future. Again, I would like to thank you for your support of the council as we slowly move forward in our recovery from Hurricane Ian. We appreciate your patience and welcome your prayers. This is going to be a long road, but progress is being made.

- Awaiting payment from Progressive flood policy of \$500,000 (policy maximum) building and \$140,000 contents.
- A settlement was received from Citizens Property Insurance of \$173,379. 61.
- Council has met with and hired Keys Claims Consultants, LLC, an independent adjustor to assist with furthering our wind claim.
- Holiday Demolition and Debris Removal, from Ft. Myers Beach, removed all debris from property, demoed interior surfaces of Lua

Hall, removed flooring and compromised drywall at a cost of \$13,900.

- Preliminary contact has been made with electrical contractors to restore power to the sanctuary building
- Council has begun contacting contractors to get estimates for stabilization of buildings per recommendations from engineering report.
- An ADA compliant porta-potty will be placed on property for Sunday worship services to be held every Sunday in March in the parking lot.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

In Christ,

Dr. Jason Kurtz, Council President

**2023 – CHURCH OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS**

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

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

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

**MEMBERS:**

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

**A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE -**

Please make sure you notify your bank or financial advisor if you send your donations through them. We are already six months from Ian (??? Still seems like last week, doesn't it) and we can only get forwarding from our Beach address to our PO box for a year. Some of them are still using our old address and it takes forever for it to forward. In a short period of time, they will not forward at all.

Also, please remember to keep us updated with your current address , phone number & e-mail address!

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