

# Spire

Summer 2025  
Vol. 34  
No. 4

## A note from Pastor Karla

When one of my grown nieces was a little girl I took her to the park to play. While we were still walking on the path to get there, it started to rain. Seeing shelter in the distance, I grabbed her hand and tried to pull her through a shortcut in the grass. "Run!", I said, but she dug her feet in the dirt and wouldn't budge. I turned to ascertain the situation and in the middle of the field, stood a sign that read "Stay on the Path". With tears streaming down her face and her hands balled in tight fists, she yelled in the now pouring rain, we can't go through the grass, we have to follow the directions. As I stood there sopping wet, it occurred to me that her under-developed brain could not fathom a world where it was okay to break the rules.

As adults, though, it doesn't take much living to perceive the shades of grey in our world. Life and its choices are not often clear cut. We are able to see different sides of the same story. We experience joy and sorrow in the same experiences. We are both fearful and courageous. Life is so complex that obeying yard signs in the rain is the least of our concerns.

This is why we are spending the summer in the Psalms. The Psalms are powerful because they offer a wide range of human emotions and experiences, expressed through prayer and praise, and become for us a source of comfort, guidance, and connection to God. They provide a framework for expressing both joy and sorrow, praise and lament, and they also connect us with the broader community of faith.

If you want to deepen your prayer life, there is no need to create something new, instead just pray the Psalms and God will show you how to be authentic with your life.



## Sunday Worship Services

Sanctuary 9:00 am  
Online 9:30 am  
Chapel 10:30 am

Rev. Karla Shaw  
Senior Pastor

2128 Chatsworth Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92107

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## Looking Ahead

July 31	Expressing the Psalms
Aug 15	Back-to-School BBQ
Aug 17	Courtyard Concert
Aug 24	Prayer Quilt Sunday



**Read this online!**  
[pointlomachurch.org/spire-newsletter](http://pointlomachurch.org/spire-newsletter)



**Sign up for our weekly email newsletter!**  
[Pointlomachurch.org](http://Pointlomachurch.org)

## Our Vision

Loving everyone to *LIFE* with everything we have.

## Our Mission

Through authentic community, we seek to *experience* Jesus, *journey* into deeper faith, *strengthen* the Church, and *transform* our world.

## Values

We are a good home.  
We are intergenerational.  
We inspire engagement.



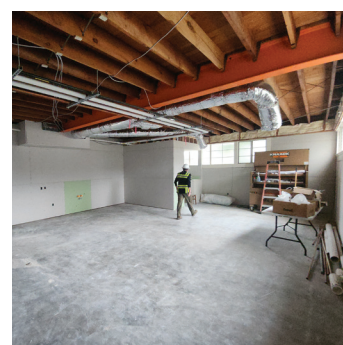


## GENERATION TO GENERATION

# Renovation Update

Exciting progress is underway across our campus! The courtyard behind the sanctuary has been repaved and will reopen soon. Inside, classroom renovations are taking shape with fresh paint, new cabinets, lighting, and soon, flooring and decor to support vibrant learning. Teachers will enjoy a spacious new Resource and Break Room—six times larger than before—complete with workstations, shelving, and a kitchen. Outdoors, a turf play area and sandbox invite creativity and movement, while the new pergola at the preschool entryway offers a warm, welcoming first impression. These improvements reflect our deep commitment to nurturing both children and staff. Thank you for your prayers as construction continues—we can't wait to welcome families into this transformed space!

To stay up to date on all of the renovation activities, visit: [pointlomachurch.org/renovation-updates](https://pointlomachurch.org/renovation-updates)



## Session Meeting Highlights

### Session Highlights | May 28, 2025 Session Meeting, John Spafford, Clerk

Pastor Karla led the Session on a tour of the renovation spaces before the May Session meeting convened. Session elders had lots of questions, and were impressed with the progress made and the quality of the work. Shaw is hopeful that Phase 2 will begin in early July.

The Session welcomed Dr. Claudia Grauf-Grounds, chair of the Staff Restructure Task Force, established

in December, 2024. The team is working with consulting resources developed by "The Unstuck Group" in determining how PLCPC is performing in a church life-cycle continuum.

Grauf-Grounds provided an update on the team's progress, and requested that the Session participate in the next steps to answer two questions: Who are we

primarily called to serve, and how do we balance operations to meet their "inward and outward" needs. Following wide-ranging discussion, the Session agreed to dedicate focused time to the topic over the summer, and thanked Grauf-Grounds and the team for the report and progress.



## Thanks to John Leimbach for His Years of Service as Church Treasurer!

In 1997, Google.com was registered, the movie Titanic premiered, and more importantly, John Leimbach was elected Treasurer of PLCPC. Since then, Leimbach has been re-elected to this unpaid post 28 times. This remarkable length of service – professional or volunteer - has rarely been seen in PLCPC history, and now Leimbach has decided to turn in his green eyeshade and calculator. He retires on June 1, 2025.

### During his service, Leimbach:

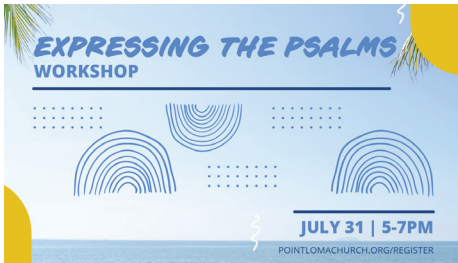
- Ushered the church finances through three major building campaigns
- Worked with three very different senior pastors
- Was instrumental in building the Endowment Fund
- Shepherded funds through the complicated church accounts
- Prepared the budget for scrutiny by Session, auditors, and the congregation
- Danced through economic minefields during the pandemic, emerging with the healthiest PLCPC finances in its history
- Scrawled his cryptic signature on thousands of checks

... and did so much more, with a smile, a word of encouragement, an air of confidence, all while staying quietly in the background, serving with humility and honor. His faithful stewardship of our church finances has been acknowledged by the Session by naming him "Treasurer Emeritus."

Please join us in thanking John for his many years of service to our church by attending the reception for the Tree of Life in September.



## EXPERIENCE JESUS



### **Expressing the Psalms | July 31, 5-7pm | FLC and Chapel**

The Psalms are filled with words of hope, praise and prayer. Come together to express the sacred text in your own way through various art making stations and a drum circle.

All are welcome — no experience necessary. Come as you are and create from the heart.

Please register for a drum circle session and to let us know which art making ideas you are interested in.



### **Bryan Verhoye and Friends Concert | August 17, 5:00pm**

Join us on Sunday, August 17 at 5:00 pm in the main courtyard for this year's Bryan Verhoye and Friends concert, featuring special guest Bobby Cressey, organist for the San Diego Padres and member of The Mighty Untouchables. Also performing are Glen Fisher on bass, Tim McMahon on drums, and Molleigh Verhoye on vocals. The event is free, with a freewill offering taken—come enjoy great music in a beautiful outdoor setting!



### **Jump into Music Opportunities this Fall!**

#### **Join the New Covenant Choir | Rehearsals Start September 4**

Rehearsals Thursdays, 7pm • Lead worship Sundays, 9am

Experience the joy of making music together—no experience needed, just a willingness to grow, connect, and boost your brain and well-being through the power of song.

#### **Singing Workshop | September 6, 9am-12pm**

You're invited to a free group voice lesson and choral workshop with a guest vocal expert—an uplifting experience to build vocal skills, explore musical styles, and grow in faith through music.

#### **Sing in the Christmas Concert Choir | December 7**

Rehearsals Thursdays, 7-8pm, Starting October 2

Choir retreat Saturday, October 25, 9am-12pm

Join the New Covenant Choir to sing in our annual Christmas Concert!



## **Help Bring the Joy of Christmas to Life!**

The PLCPC Christmas Concert is a beloved community tradition, known for the exceptional caliber of musicians and singers who come together for an extraordinary evening. Featuring members of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, along with our children's and adult choirs, bell ensemble, worship band, piano, and organ, this concert is a moving and joy-filled musical experience that brings people together.



# Thank You, Ann Simoneau!

For over three decades, Ann Simoneau has faithfully led Ringers ReJOYce! with grace, passion, and excellence. Since 1988, Ann has guided our handbell choir with a steady hand and a joyful heart, creating a space for musicians to grow in both skill and spirit. Her leadership included not only Sunday services, but also performances at weddings, community events—even the San Diego Zoo—and collaborations with choirs and worship bands that elevated our worship experiences.

Ann's impact is deeply felt. She built a close-knit, caring community of ringers and nurtured friendships through shared joy, creativity, and faith. Her thoughtful selection of meaningful music, meticulous care of our bells, and creative collaborations enriched the lives of all who listened and participated.

Ann also helped shape a strong and lasting bell program at PLCPC—one that emphasized excellence, respect, and service. From Spring Rings to reflective Maundy Thursday moments and Christmas celebrations, she brought beauty and meaning to countless occasions. Her devotion has left a permanent mark on our worship life and church family.

We are profoundly grateful for Ann's years of tireless dedication, her Christ-like spirit, and her love for this ministry. Her legacy will continue to ring in our hearts and echo throughout our church for years to come.



As we prepare for this year's concert on December 7, we invite your support to help cover the rising costs of music and musicians.

**Become a Sponsor! All sponsors are invited to join for the dress rehearsal and lunch on Saturday, December 6.**

Sheet Music Sponsor: \$100–\$249

Rehearsal Sponsor: \$250–\$499

Instrument Sponsor: \$500+

To become a sponsor and help make this beautiful tradition possible, visit [pointlomachurch.org/give](http://pointlomachurch.org/give), or scan the QR code.



## JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH

# children & family MINISTRY

**Sarah Butterfield, Director of Children & Family Ministry**  
sarah@pointlomachurch.org | 619-223-1633 x215

**Sign up NOW!**

## Music & Movement

**Children's Music Class**  
For Ages 4-Grade 1

August - December 2025  
Wednesdays, 4:00-4:45pm

### Children's Music Classes

**Age 4 - Grade 6 | Starting August 27 & 28**

Sign-ups are open for our fall Children's Music Classes! Children age 4 through grade 6 are invited to grow in faith through music, movement, drama, and fun while preparing to lead in worship and participate in special Christmas events. Classes begin the last week of August—learn more and register today!

**Children's Music Class**

## Choir & Drama

**Grades 2-6**  
August - December 2025  
Thursdays, 4:00-6:00pm

**Sign up NOW!**

**Age 4 - Grade 1 | Wednesdays, 4:00-4:45 pm**

**Grades 2-6 | Thursdays, 4:00pm - 6:00pm**

[pointlomachurch.org/children](http://pointlomachurch.org/children)



**Back-to-School BBQ**

**Aug 15 5-7pm**

Save the date for our annual back-to-school BBQ! Gather with our church community and enjoy bounce houses, mini golf, BBQ and more!

The graphic features a large yellow circle with the text 'Back-to-School BBQ' and a smaller yellow circle with the date and time 'Aug 15 5-7pm'. The background is a collage of photos showing children and adults at an outdoor event, with a church building visible in the background.





# Brick Youth

**Ryan Silvia, Director of Youth & Young Adults Ministry**  
ryan@pointlomachurch.org | 619-223-1633 x215



SUNDAYS JULY 13 - AUGUST 17  
4:30PM-6:30PM



## YOUTH BEACH DAYS

**SUNDAYS, JULY  
13-AUGUST 17**

This summer, we're trading our usual Sunday night youth groups for beach parties in Ocean Beach and pool parties at families' homes! Youth students join us every Sunday evening for fun and time with friends by the water. It's the perfect way to enjoy summer together!

**July 13:** 3627 Plumosa Dr.

**July 20:** 3195 Shona Way

**July 27:** Ocean Beach (5156W W Point Loma Blvd)

**August 3:** OB (5156W W Point Loma Blvd)

**August 10:** OB (5156W W Point Loma Blvd)

**August 17:** Yacht Club 1011 Anchorage Lane

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUMMER CAMP!** Our youth had so much fun at camp on Catalina!





## STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH



### Wine, Women & Word | August 27, 5-7pm

In June, a group of women came together and enjoyed an evening of connection, laughter, and shared stories. It was a beautiful reminder of the community we have together!

Mark your calendar for our next gathering on Wednesday, August 27, hosted at the Point Loma home of Lucy Celeste. Space is limited and always fills quickly, so be sure to register early—we'd love to see you there!



Register by Aug 24  
Spots are limited!



**JOIN OUR TEAM!**

Red Brick Riders

November 8

[POINTLOMACHURCH.ORG/REGISTER](https://pointlomachurch.org/register)



### Ride the Point | November 8 Sign up now!

Calling all bike riders! Join Point Loma Church's team—Red Brick Riders—for Ride the Point, a community bike ride supporting pancreatic cancer research. Choose between a 25-mile ride or a 5-mile family-friendly option. Select "Red Brick Riders" as your team when registering, and use code RTP25RBR for \$10 off the 25-mile ride. Let's ride together for a great cause and fun fellowship!



Join our team today!  
[pointlomachurch.org/register](https://pointlomachurch.org/register)



### Celebrate Life with the Tree of Life

The Tree of Life in the Family Life Center is a beautiful way to celebrate life events and milestones—honoring loved ones, commemorating special moments, and telling the story of our church community. This September, we'll hold a special reception to add new leaves to the tree and celebrate those being honored. If you'd like to participate, order your leaf by September 1 to have it included in the reception on Sunday, September 28, from 10:00–10:30am.



Learn more and order a leaf:  
[pointlomachurch.org/tree-of-life](https://pointlomachurch.org/tree-of-life)





## Celebrating Prayer Quilts on Prayer Quilt Sunday | Aug 24

It's not about the quilts; it's all about the prayers!

Celebrate 23 years of Prayers and Squares ministry at PLCPC with us on Sunday, August 24. Please bring your prayer quilt or a loved one's quilt to worship to contribute to the visual display of faithful service and prayers.

Recently, we re-tied a quilt for Jennifer who was experiencing seizures. She asked for her grandfather Harold's quilt to be re-tied for her, which was originally requested, prayed for and tied in 2006. The connection was Jennifer's mother, Margie (pictured left), who has cherished Harold's quilt in his memory all these years.

She says that he loved his quilt and the idea that people he didn't know were praying for him, and always kept it with him until he passed. The Red Brick Prayer Quilt prayer team prayed for Harold for many months and now will do the same for Jennifer, as they do for everyone who receives our prayers and a quilt. We value making quilts for our community, and we value the opportunity to pray for all our quilt recipients even more. To request a prayer quilt, email Lynn Spafford at [redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com](mailto:redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com)

For questions or if you are interested in participating in the Prayer Quilt Ministry, contact Maureen Blackhall at [maureenblackhall@gmail.com](mailto:maureenblackhall@gmail.com)

## TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



### Thank you for supporting the Summer Mission Drive!

We collected 42 backpacks, and school supplies and hygiene items for New Day Urban Ministries plus 114 pairs of socks for Loaves and Fishes; as well as over \$2900. Your generosity helps bring dignity, hope, and tangible care to our neighbors in need!

We're so grateful for a congregation that makes it possible to support meaningful work both locally and globally. In addition to special drives like this, our Transform Our World Mission Group thoughtfully allocates mission funds each year through a grant process, carefully reviewing applications from our mission partners. This season of review, which is happening right now, is always an exciting reminder of the many impactful organizations we're able to support as a church family.

**To learn more about our mission partners and the work you are a part of, visit [pointlomachurch.org/missions](http://pointlomachurch.org/missions).**



## LIFE EVENTS

### BAPTISMS

Casey Edward Arendt, son of Rachel and Chad Arendt was baptized on May 4, 2025

Jack Reynolds Miller, son of Kalen and Bryan Miller was baptized on May 4, 2025

### DEATHS

Loren Gratz passed away on June 3, 2025. Private services will be held at a later date in Tucson, Arizona.

Mary True passed away on June 20, 2025. A Memorial Service will be held in the Chapel on July 25, 2025 at 11:00am. Rev. John Moser will be officiating.



## JULY & AUGUST FLOWER DONATIONS

Each week, the Deacons deliver flowers in order to brighten days and bring cheer. We are so grateful to those who have donated to make this flower ministry possible. The flowers this month are given...

### JULY 6

By Kathleen McKnight in joyful celebration of the birthday of her grandson Luke William McDonald.

And, by Ed Lynds and Eleanor Witte in loving memory of their parents Ed and Marjorie Lynds.

### JULY 13

By Dean Milleson Crowder in memory and honor of his mother Florence Milleson Crowder.

### JULY 20

By the families of Dotsy and Al Baber and Ann Silliman in loving memory of their parents Jim and Gwen Lyon.

### JULY 27

In memory of my Father and Mother Kenneth and Amanda Holst by Bob Holst.

### AUGUST 3

By Mary Jo and Jim Pokorny in honor of their parents Frank and Louise Pokorny's wedding anniversary August 17, 1941 and their brother John's birthday August 22, 1951.

And, in Loving memory of Debora Palma Stranger. Her mother, sisters and spouses, and nieces and nephews are grateful for the privilege of sharing her life. Her love and light lives on.

### AUGUST 10

For Charles G. Wootton, we celebrate you and honor you, today and forever, all our love, your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

### AUGUST 17

By Barbara J. Brown in memory of her parents Thurston and Ruth Powers, her sister Joan Miller and her son in law Brian Thorenson.

And, in honor of the Prayer Quilt Ministry by Maureen and Eric Blackhall.

### AUGUST 24

In loving memory of John L. and Betty Spafford by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

And, by Kathleen McKnight in joyful celebration of the birthday of her grandson Alexander Ilia McKnight.

### AUGUST 31

In loving memory of Fran Styles, born September 1, 1927, by her daughter Michelle Styles.

And, in loving memory of her husband Richard by Dianne Grafton.



## COMING UP IN AUGUST!

