Spire

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A Note from Pastor Karla

A family was preparing one year for Thanksgiving dinner. The house, as you can imagine, was full of activity. The table was being set, food was filling the kitchen, and everyone was busy making sure things were just right. In the middle of all the preparation, someone noticed that the table was already full. There was barely room for one more thing. And yet, there was one more place that needed to be set.

It strikes me that this is often how we approach this time of year. We move from Thanksgiving into Advent with full calendars, full schedules, and minds already racing toward Christmas. We make preparations for gatherings, celebrations, and traditions, but sometimes we forget to make room for the very thing we are preparing to celebrate.

As we give thanks for the blessings that surround us the upcoming weeks, perhaps our gratitude can become the beginning of a different kind of preparation. What might it look like to clear a little space in our hearts? To quiet some of the noise in our minds? To let go of the things that keep us distracted and make room for the presence of Christ?

The invitation of Advent is not simply to get ready for Christmas, but to get ready for Christ. To open ourselves again to the hope, love, peace, and possibility that God brings into the world. So, as we move through this season, may we carry the gratitude of Thanksgiving with us and allow it to prepare us for something even greater. May we make room for Christ, not just in our celebrations, but in our hearts.



Point Loma
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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Read this online!
pointlomachurch.org/spire-newsletter

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter!
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.

CHURCH NEWS

Session Meeting Highlights

OCTOBER 28, 2026 | KATHY WRIGHT, ASSISTANT CLERK

The Session welcomed Joe Lizura, COO of Your Power, Inc., who gave an update on the solar project. He noted there are delays because of city government permits and approvals. He also noted that our project is slightly over budget because of fees, but it will eventually pay for itself. Our project is oversized because of the Quieter Home program and because we need two systems to support both the older buildings and the newly renovated spaces.

The Session also welcomed former elder Steve Smith, Chair of the Endowment Fund. Steve discussed the Fund and its operation, emphasizing that its money is invested and only the income, not the principal, is distributed. He also noted that the distributions are for one-time expenses, and some funds are set aside for emergencies.

Elder Doug Werner announced that the new "Come and See" giving materials are now in the mail. The comments about the new brochure were all very positive.

EXPERIENCE JESUS

InterFaith Service Thanksgiving

NOV 22, 7PM | OB JOYFUL (1984 SUNSET CLIFFS BLVD, OCEAN BEACH)

Gather with Ocean Beach and Point Loma people of faith for an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 22 at 7 pm at OB Joyfull (1984 Sunset Cliffs Blvd, Ocean Beach). Our Bell Choir will be playing at the service. If you are interested in participating in a community choir, come early at 5:30pm.

COME & SEE



SHAPED BY PLACE ART EXHIBIT

On Display in the Chapel Through Nov 22

Inspired by the Come & See sermon series and its exploration of the land of the Bible, this art show invites artists from our community to create visual depictions of the land that has shaped them.



Christmas Concert

DECEMBER 6, 5:00PM & 7:00PM

Come and enjoy Christmas music performed by a chamber orchestra with members from the San Diego Symphony, children and adult choirs, bells, worship band, piano and organ at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church's annual Christmas Concert! This concert is free and is open to all ages. A freewill offering will be received. Cookie Reception between concerts. Nursery Care provided and Kids & Youth Activities for grades K-8 during the 5:00pm concert. ***Livestream available for the 5:00pm concert.***

ADVENT

THE REAL WORLD BEHIND THE NATIVITY

Advent Sermon Series

NOV 29-DEC 27

This Advent, join us on a journey as we look behind the Christmas Story and rediscover the real world in which Jesus was born—a world marked by political tension, economic uncertainty, power struggles, and the ordinary challenges of everyday life. The nativity wasn't a perfect story removed from reality--it unfolded right in the middle of it. Perhaps through this sermon series we will discover ourselves and this current world in a new way.

Christmas Eve Services

DEC 24 | 10AM, *4PM, *7PM, 9PM, *LIVESTREAM

Join us as we celebrate the arrival of our savior throughout the day on Christmas Eve. We will have four services, December 24th: 10:00am chapel service, 4:00pm* family service, and 7:00pm* & 9:00pm sanctuary services. 4:00pm* and 7:00pm* will be livestreamed. **Live nativity on the plaza starting after the family service ends at 5:00-8:30pm.**



children & family MINISTRY

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

Highlights from Trunk-or-Treat











Family Bingo Night

NOV 13, 6:00-7:00PM | FLC

Everyone who knows their letters and numbers is invited to participate in Bingo night! Come for a night of fun and games with other families. Childcare is available for kids 3 and under. Register by Nov 11.

REGISTER



Jingle Fest

DEC 13, 3-5PM

Join us for our free annual Christmas extravaganza! We will have plenty of crafts, activities, cookies, pictures with Santa and more. This is a great event for the whole family!

Youth

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

JOIN IN WEEKLY!

Our youth programs are back to our regular timing. All youth are invited to join in weekly for lots of fun, friends, and getting to know Jesus!

YOUTH WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday Mornings, 10:30am during Chapel service

YOUTH GROUP

Sundays, 4:30-6:30pm

Junior High and High Schoolers join us on Sunday nights to eat, have fun and get to know about Jesus!



Youth Christmas Party

DECEMBER 13, 5:00PM

6th–12th graders are invited to our annual White Elephant Christmas Party! Bring a $25 gift to share that is silly, fun or just a great gift! Reminder the gift cannot be living or formerly living. We look forward to seeing you at our wonderful winter celebration!

COME & SEE



FAITH AND FICTION BOOK CLUB

November 17, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Our book club on the second Tuesday of the month where we dive into fiction and explore connections to our faith is lining up titles to help us "Come and See." We will discuss *The Unknown Americans* by Christina Henriquez on November 17.



COME & SEE LUNCHES

November 8 & 22

Participants from the Come & See trips will share their experiences during two lunches following worship. Karla will facilitate the conversations, with time for small-group discussion. Registration opens on the website this month.



Mensgiving

NOVEMBER 17 | 5:30PM

Join us at the Southwestern Yacht Club for an evening of fellowship and connection over a delicious dinner as we welcome the holiday season. This year, we're excited to hear from Donnie Dee, President and CEO of the San Diego Rescue Mission and former Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Regional Director for SoCal and professional Football Player. Don't miss this opportunity to gather and connect!

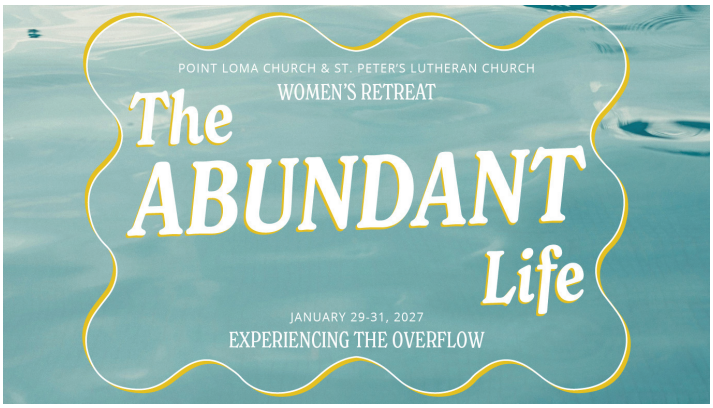


Advent Quiet Day

DECEMBER 11, 8:30AM-2:30PM

Pause during this Advent season and join with others in a quiet, reflective experience about "A Child is Born." Cost includes light breakfast, lunch, and all materials. Register online!

Cost: $45 (Includes light breakfast, lunch, materials)



Women's Retreat

JANUARY 29-31, 2027

Cost: $230 • The Dana on Mission Bay

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) What is abundant life and how do we experience it? We will spend the weekend exploring how Jesus taught and modeled living an abundant life. Together we will explore the joy of an abundant mindset, learning how to cultivate rhythms of grace in our lives which will allow us to experience an overflow of God's goodness that we can then take into our daily lives and share with others.

REGISTER!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH



PODCAST

RO Smith is hosting a podcast where we will explore what it means to really "see" others and to live in a way that we can experience one another's stories. In the process, we will examine where God is in the story, how He is moving, and invite others to "come and see" God at work. The podcast is available on all audio platforms as well as on our youtube channel @ PointlomaChurchonline



Christmas Serving Opportunities

Help out this Christmas season! Serve with Deck the Halls, the Christmas Concert, Toy Store, and Jingle Fest. Register below!

REGISTER

Senior Tech Connect Class

1ST & 3RD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH AT 11:00AM

This 12-course series offered by Senior Tech Connect is designed to help you confidently use your smartphone while staying safe online. Each class is a hands-on, one-hour session. Bring your phone, iPhone or Android, and we'll walk through everything together.

November 16: Passwords & Security Basics

December 7: Find My Phone & Phone Care

December 21: Making Your Phone Your Own

REGISTER!



Surviving the Holidays Workshop

NOVEMBER 18, 5:30-7:30PM

Grieving a loss or know someone who is? The holidays are challenging when you are grieving a loss. Join us at this workshop to receive encouragement, support and practical ways to navigate the season. Workshop includes at 30 minute video, discussion time and a comforting meal. Register online.

REGISTER!



Advent Fair

NOVEMBER 29, 9AM-12PM

Start your holiday shopping while supporting a meaningful cause. At this special holiday market, the bell choir will be selling baked goods; the prayer quilt ministry team will be offering home made items; and the Boy Scouts will be offering luminaries. Proceeds support each ministry. Stop by for a festive morning of shopping and fellowship.



MOM's Toy Store Drive

NOW-DEC 6

On December 12 we are hosting a Christmas toy store filled with toys donated throughout November for local military families though our mission partner MOMs (San Diego Military Outreach Ministries). Help bless families by donating toys for children ages newborn to 12 years! New and unwrapped toys can be dropped off Sunday-Friday.

LIFE EVENTS:

Birth

Bo Robert Kelly, born 10/01/2026, parents are Sara & Kevin Kelly.
Proud grandparents are Brock & Nancy Wildman.

Death

Ben Burdine passed away on October 23, 2026. The family will have a private service in Texas.

NOVEMBER 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...

NOVEMBER 1

In loving memory of Ann and James Kelley by Elizabeth and James Kelley and Maureen and Eric Blackhall.

NOVEMBER 8

By Fritzi Johns in loving memory of her husband Ed, their son Edward Dillon Johns and their parents.

And, by Lana and Roger Brenes in loving memory of their parents, Clark and Beth Seagraves and Sam and Esther Brenes, their niece Megan Most, and their brothers Phil Brenes and Tom Money.

NOVEMBER 15

By Bob and Jill Giesick in celebration of the Giesick and Senne November birthdays.

And, by Kathleen McKnight in joyful celebration of the birthday of her grandson Ari Loren McKnight.

NOVEMBER 22

In loving memory of our precious Cynthia Wootton from her husband: Alan Clark, Mother: Bette Wootton, her siblings: Cheryl, Laurel, Emily, Ginny, and Chad, and all her nieces and nephews.

NOVEMBER 29

Flowers are given by Diana and John Holman in memory of their previous spouses who are with the Lord. Marilyn Holman, Harriet Holman, and Bill Stephens.

And, by Pete and Don Griffith give the flowers with Thanksgiving for our 74th Wedding Anniversary, our loving family and our wonderful church family.

NEW MEMBERS

Mandy Buzzell has been part of Point Loma Church since 2014, first through MOPS (now MomCo) and later through her children's music classes and youth group. With a background in youth arts nonprofits, she is studying to become an elementary music teacher. She is grateful to have found a church home that nurtures her family, faith, and love of music.



Jordan Buzzell, also known as Dr. Buzz, lives in Point Loma with his wife, Mandy, and their three children. A retired Navy Reservist with more than 20 years of service, he is a pediatric dentist and full-time educator in San Diego. His family has participated in Point Loma Church through children's choirs, holiday performances, and community activities. He considers marrying Mandy and becoming a father among his greatest life highlights.



Lynn Fieser lives in Santee with her two children, Joshua and Devyn. After visiting several San Diego churches, the family found a home at Point Loma Church and looks forward to getting involved. Lynn enjoys cycling, mountain biking, traveling, and spending time at the beach with her family and dogs. Her volunteer experience includes serving as a school room parent, Scout leader, and volunteer with homeless services and athletic organizations.



Alex Kuchynskyi was born in Ukraine and moved to the United States with his family in 2021. After nearly five years in Sacramento, where the family attended a Ukrainian church and participated in volunteer activities, they moved to San Diego in late 2025. They found Point Loma Church as their new church home and look forward to becoming part of the community.



Vita Kuchynska was born in Ukraine and moved to the United States with her husband and children to look for a better life. Her faith in Jesus has guided her throughout her journey, and she hopes to nurture that same faith in her children. Vita enjoys singing, connecting with people, and welcoming others. She is also interested in helping with children's activities.

And, **Donna Beshgetoor** and **Amanda Buzzell.**

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