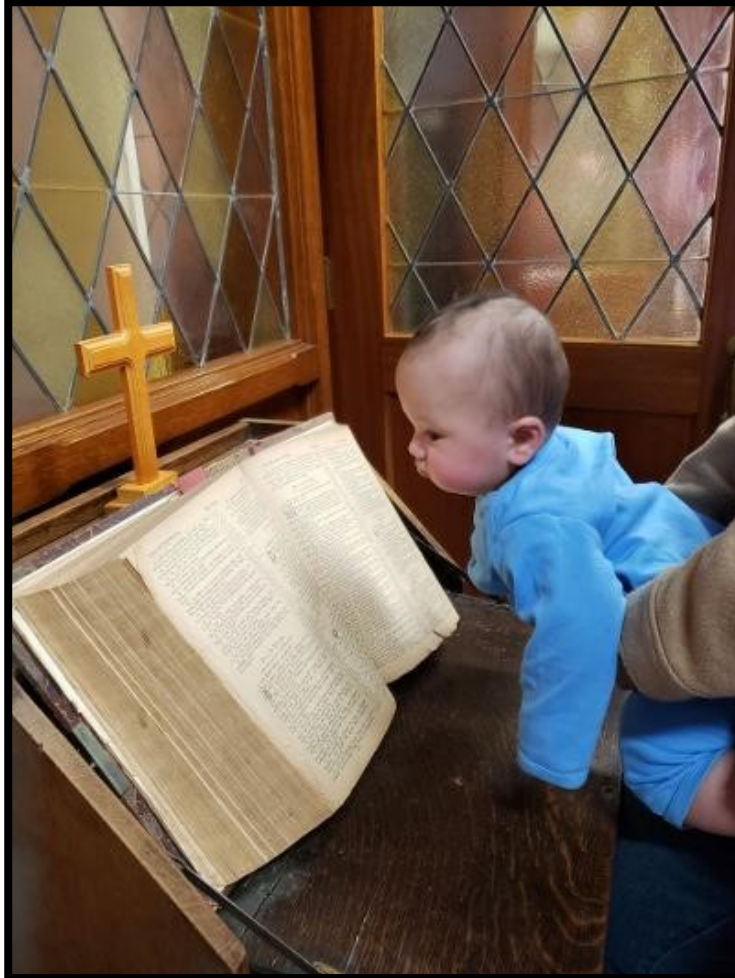


Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1730 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, California 90403



Pilgrim's Progress

January 2023

New Year, New Baby, Old Bible!



Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
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January Worship Schedule at Pilgrim

Sunday Worship Service Schedule in January

9:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class, meets in the Discovery Conference Room.

9:30 a.m. Arrangements can be made to have a short Sunday School Lesson at 9:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Indoors and on Facebook and Pilgrim's website.

Sunday Morning Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.

Please be sure to attend our Sunday morning Bible Class at 9 a.m. in our Conference Room.

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D will be teaching the Bible Classes.

Pastor Nunes' Strategic Planning Committee

Pastor Nunes explained his plans and suggestions for his mission to foster Pilgrim's future today, tomorrow and years from now. A Strategic Planning Committee has been formed and met December 10th. Several additional meetings have been scheduled via Zoom, through June 2023.

From Pastor Nunes:

Here are the categories and the definitions with which I am working. I call it MAPS. Our goal is to generate together a roadmap for our future, one that may even outlive and outlast all of us. I am entirely open to redefining of any of these descriptions.

- 1) **Mission:** the words that describe succinctly and communicate publicly who we are and what we are called to do as a congregation. From this statement ministry activities flow and over against this statement our ministry activities are tested.
- 2) **Assets:** an analysis and accounting of the resources with which God has blessed us—human and material—and their sustainability. We will consider how we best invest, steward, and deploy our resources to accomplish our mission. We must also take an honest look at what the threats are that may imperil the mission; i.e., what do we have to work with and for how long? How can we grow what we have to work with?
- 3) **Priorities:** since our assets will always be limited, we cannot do everything we imagine or meet everyone's needs. We must assign value and decide the critical importance of every congregational activity based on who we are and what God is calling us uniquely to do; i.e., what activities best serve our mission?
- 4) **Steps:** what is the timeline for executing the plan and the sequence of implementation; i.e., where do we start and how do we make this happen?

Save the Date: January 8, 2023

Pilgrim's "20/30 Something" group is planning a bowling party event on Sunday January 8th after our Worship Service. Please plan to join us. We will notify you when the location is determined.



The **Mission of Pilgrim Lutheran Church** is to be an incarnation of Jesus Christ to people of all ages in the Santa Monica area and throughout the world.

Gospel Readings for January Services

Jan. 1 Luke 2:21 (Jesus is circumcised and named.)

Jan. 8 Matthew 3:13–17 (The Father proclaims Jesus His beloved Son.)

Jan. 15 John 1:29–42a (Jesus invites two disciples to stay with Him.)

Jan. 22 Matthew 4:12–25 (In Galilee, Jesus calls the first four disciples.)

Jan. 29 Matthew 5:1–12 (Jesus explains God’s blessings.)

Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped make Pilgrim’s midweek Advent worship services, as well as our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services very special. Mat M. filmed our on-line only Wednesday night midweek Advent services. The music and sermons were wonderful. Our choir and musicians (some hired) helped make our Christmas Eve service spectacular. Pastor Nunes’ sermons were wonderful and very appropriate. Pilgrim also held a Christmas Day worship service. Pilgrim has always held a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service, however many churches no longer do this. New Years Day fell on a Sunday this year and we also held a worship service on this day; a wonderful way to begin a New Year. We received many compliments on our Music. Thank you, Mary, Kimshelley, Mat M. Allen, and the professional musicians we hired. They worked hard, with extra practicing. Mat also worked on our live filming so those who could not attend in-person were still able to view our services.



We also want to thank those who helped set up and cook for our December 18th Pilgrim Christmas Party! Dietmar, Carolyn B, Noland, Lana, Allen, Lucas, Mat, Allen and many more all helped make this a very happy time. See photos on the back page!



**Pilgrim Women may now hold Council Office as
President or Vice President**

On December 4, 2022, Pilgrim held a short Voters’ Meeting, to ask members if they would consider approving a very slight nine word change in Pilgrim’s bylaws, regarding allowing women members to hold the office of Council President and Vice President. Previously, LCMS had not allowed women to serve in this capacity. That changed many years ago, and Pilgrim felt we should become more inclusive with allowing women to serve in these two positions. PSW District Mike Gibson verified that it would be appropriate for Pilgrim to make this change. The ballots were counted and 26 people voted Yes, (make the change) and 3 people voted No, (do not make the change.) Women may still not hold pastoral office, preach, be an Elder (because Elders may preach), may not administer the Sacraments.

January Calendar at a Glance (Worship Services are Indoors and on FB and our website.)

- January 1** †Naming of Jesus Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
January 4 Remove Nativity Scene on 20th and Broadway
January 5 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting via Zoom, 1-2 p.m.
January 6 Epiphany of Our Lord
January 7 Remove Pilgrim's Christmas decorations
January 8 †Baptism of Our Lord Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
January 8 20/30 Something Bowling Party, after the Worship Service and short Voter's Meeting
January 8 Short Voters' Meeting with presentation of slate of potential Council Members
January 15 †Second Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
January 15 Voters' Meeting, (vote on new Church Council) after the Worship Service
January 16 Martin Luther King, JR Day, Office closed
January 21 Trey Dimsdale Event with Pacifica/Pilgrim
January 22 †Third Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion
January 29 †Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service at 10 a.m. / Holy Communion

We need help removing Pilgrim's Nativity Scene on January 4th at 20th and Broadway and we need help on January 7th removing our Pilgrim Christmas decorations. We need men to help us with this heavy work!

On-line Giving Available

Thank you to those of you who have been using Pilgrim's on-line giving app via a company called Push-Pay. Pushpay allows people to make online offerings instead of writing checks. The company does a lot of work with Christian Churches.

LCMS Websites

Keep current on the activities and events of our Pacific South District (PSD) Missouri Synod by going to their website at www.psdnews@psd-lcms.org. You can get a weekly newsletter and stay up to date. You may also check out the Synod's website at www.lcms.org. Good Lutherans stay informed!

LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO

The Lutheran Hour was first broadcast Oct. 2, 1930 and continues on the air today, making it the world's oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. To listen: go to LHM podcasts: <https://www.lhm.org/podcasts/> For 24/7, go to: <https://www.lhm.org/> in our LLL district, here are popular radio stations and times: 8:00 a.m. Costa Mesa KBRT 740 AM 1:30 p.m. Glendale KKLA 99.5 FM 7:00 a.m. Sirius – XM Family Talk 131 8:00 p.m. Monday Santa Monica 98.3 KZLA FM and 5:30 a.m. Sunday 5:30 a.m. KZLA .

Rev. John Arthur Nunes, Ph.D, can occasionally be heard on the Lutheran Hour. His remaining schedule to preach is February 5, 2023, March 12 and 26, 2023, April 16, 2023 and June 4, 2023.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, you may call the Church office with your request or you may send an email to amenmail@aol.com

Praise the Lord for Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in January

Beulah F.	January 6
Travis B.	January 10
Nora O.	January 12
Pastor Nunes	January 14
Ann E.	January 20
Nancy L.	January 20
Claudia T.	January 27



Message from Pastor Nunes

BEYOND WORDS

Dear Fellow Pilgrim,

“There are no words.” Some experiences go beyond what we can aptly or accurately capture with language. I have three examples.

First, beyond words: the indescribable mystery of the Incarnation. As Peter Chrysologus wrote in 5th century about those who followed the star: “Today the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body.” The best we can do, as the wisest of wise know, is gaze with praise.

Second, beyond words: the indescribable light that illuminates our lives in Epiphany. This season inspires us to arise and shine for our light has come (Isaiah 60:1). Notice it doesn’t say, arise and describe the scientific properties of light: photons, waves, and particles, and refractions. Some of us engage in so much wordy theological abstraction, so much abstruse verbiage about the superiority of our denomination that we never get around to shining with the light of Christ, being electric about our faith. Doing good, loving strangers, forgiving enemies, sharing Jesus. Good works shine louder than good words.

Third, beyond words: the indescribable kindness that has been shown to Monique and me by Pilgrim Church. You have shone deeply into our lives this Christmas. Our family has had some challenges, also beyond words. Thank you for allowing the Holy Spirit to flow with sublimity through you to us. Your heartwarming generosity glows way beyond what words can say.

God loves you and so do I,

Pastor John



In Our Prayers. . . .

Prayers of Intercession

For those with Dystonia
For James, Speech Apraxia
For Hal's wife, Darylene. health
Travis's father, Reinheld
For Randy—breathing issues
End of war in Ukraine
Mark C.—Lungs
Evelyn L. Stroke recovery
For Pilgrim
Roger H. —health issues
End of COVID –19 Virus
Medical personnel, first responders
Hilda's mother Berjik, Health
Tiffany's mother and family
Lila, neck tumor
Social Justice, End of Racism
Dave K. brain shunt
Kathy, heart and shoulder
Clara, head injury
Grace, Dystonia
Edith A. shoulder
Claudia back, leg issues
Pearl R. Stroke recovery
Jim K, myasthenia gravis & cancer
Neven, heart procedure
Corine, health
Julia A. fibromyalgia, arthritis
Alia, kidney problem
Joe K health and well being
Cyndy for heart issues
Derrick, recovery
Mary's mother
Pastor G. health and eyesight
Frank, ALS
Jeremy, health issues
Annie, Cystic Fibrosis
Greater Evangelism
Marriage difficulties
Unemployment

Prayers for Those Fighting Cancer

Megan, breast cancer
JoAnna, breast cancer
Arthur N.-cancer
Dale Frese-cancer
Myrna, Bob's stepmom
Susan M.
Brian, Stomach, Esophagus
Rudolph A.
George D. Bladder cancer
Cezanne, intestinal cancer
Carole, stomach
Fernando L.
Neville E.
Adam R.
Cindy C.
Monique Y.
Steve H.
Debbie D.
Susan S.
Ken B.
Hilda's husband Jim
Ivan P.
Dana A.
Kay T.
Kim
Zack
Bob's Aunt
Charles (prostate)
Rich Z.
Molly
Peggy H.
Greg W.
Paul
Jill
Paul
Marc F. Bladder
Tammy F, lung cancer
Continued Prayers
Protection for Police Officers & Firefighters
Protection for our troops
Jews for Jesus Ministry
The ill and lonely
Persecuted Christians
Andrew S. in military

(Continued)

Corby-health issues
Lamar, needs housing
Natalie-Restoration
Chloe
Darell W.
Jim R. continued healing
Adolfo, recovery from stroke
Martha E. M.S. and heart issue
Alex B. for recovery
Mary Ann's health
Sharon C. -Healing
Kathy H's sister Alice—MS
For Missionaries
Laurie's mother
Michael's brother & sister-in-law returning to the Lord
Mike C, mental & spiritual health
Abused children
Steve G. tumors

Prayers of Praise & Thanks

For the Birth of Jesus!
For America's Leaders!
For our Wonderful Country!
For Pastor Nunes & Monique!
For Pilgrim's Wonderful Volunteers!



**Pilgrim Lutheran Church and the Pacifica Center for Philosophy + Theology
are pleased to host**

Mr. Trey Dimsdale, J.D.

Executive Director of the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy

Nietzsche, Modernity, and the Recovery of Conservatism

The conservative understands himself as an inheritor of a tradition and a trustee of the present and who is thus obligated to preserve what he enjoys now for the benefit of future generations. Subtle philosophical shifts through Modernism have undermined the conservative disposition and imperiled our appreciation for tradition, our sense of place, and our ability to sacrifice in the present for the sake of the future. Anti-Christian philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche recognized the folly in Modernism well before the West ever felt the full effects of the shift. Despite the many ways in which Nietzsche has been misunderstood, his critiques of Modernism's merger with Christianity make him the ideal non-Christian interlocutor to help us sort out the damage caused by Modernism and to have hope that we might recover the conservative disposition.



Trey Dimsdale, J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: January 21st, 2023, 5:00 pm. Contact the Church Office for additional information and the event location if you would like to attend this event. No charge for admission. Church Office phone number: (310) 829-4113. A light meal will be served. Mr. Dimsdale has held leadership positions with several think tanks, including the Acton Institute for the study of religion and liberty. He has presented to the European Parliament, the Anglican Leadership Forum, the European Economic Summit, and the Congress of Christian Leaders. He is currently a fellow at the Centre for Enterprise, Markets & Ethics in Oxford, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. Mr. Dimsdale holds a law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a master's degree in theology and ethics.

An email was sent out regarding this event and it is necessary to RSVP via the email invitation.

Church Office and Campus will be Closed Monday January 17th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Dr. King's original name was Michael, but his father, after a visit to Germany where he learned about the Reformer Martin Luther, was so impressed that he changed his name and his son Michael's name, to Martin. On this day we celebrate the reforming work of Dr. King for the sake of Social Justice

